

Return of all exiles demanded by April

AMMAN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said on Sunday they would demand Israel allow all 1,600 Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories since 1967 to return by next April. They said the PLO expects about 200 expellees to return to their homes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip by the end of November. "The PLO will submit a list of all the deportees to Israeli negotiators in Tabah and will demand that the return of the last of the deportees coincide with the withdrawal of the last Israeli soldier from Gaza and Jericho scheduled for April," said Marwan Barghout, a PLO official who was expelled in 1987. Under the Israeli-PLO accord signed in September, Israeli troops are to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho over a four-month period starting in December. A PLO official said Palestinian negotiators will also demand Israel agree to the phased release of all its 12,000 Palestinian prisoners by April. According to Palestinian figures, Israel has expelled 1,600 Palestinians since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war — 94 of them after a revolt against the occupation erupted in 1987. That does not include 400 expelled last December, who will all be home by the end of the year.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الروي»

UAE stresses boycott adherence

ABU DHABI (AP) — The United Arab Emirates reminded business firms Sunday of the need for detailed certificates of origin for all imports, a formality designed to prevent Israeli products from filtering into the country. The local branch of the Arab Boycott of Israel Office, which is attached to the Ministry of Commerce and Economy, said in a circular that the certificates should identify the exporting country and company, list the commodities and provide the name and address of the manufacturing country and firm. On the strength of the information, imports would be given the ministry's approval and clearly marked: "This shipment is not banned from entering Arab ports..." The UAE circular apparently was aimed at countering any speculation that the Abu Dhabi government would unilaterally drop or ease the boycott. Publicly, the Gulf Cooperation Council alliance of Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain remains committed to the Arab League resolutions that enforced the boycott four decades ago. The ban not only includes Israeli products, but also boycotts Israeli firms and foreign companies that deal with the Jewish state. These include dozens of U.S. and other Western firms.

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King sends cable to Balduh

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday congratulated Yemeni Vice-President Salem Ali Al Balduh on the escape of his two sons from an attack Saturday by Yemeni gunmen. The Yemeni vice-president's nephew was killed in the attack. In a cable he sent to Mr. Balduh Sunday, King Hussein expressed deep sorrow at the death of Mr. Balduh's nephew and expressed his heartfelt condolences.

King meets outgoing Syrian ambassador

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received Syrian ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh, who called at the Royal Court to bid farewell to the King on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in Jordan.

Yemenis urge trial of killers

SANAA (R) — The funeral of the slain nephew of Yemen's vice-president took place peacefully Sunday, but thousands of marching students in Aden demanded that the killers be brought to justice. Witnesses said thousands of students marched through Aden, the stronghold of Vice-President Ali Salem Al Balduh, after the funeral of his nephew Kamel Al Hamed, a university student in his early 20s. They demanded that the killers, who have not been caught yet, be found and put on trial. Official sources said unidentified gunmen opened fire from a speeding car outside Hamed's home early on Friday. Two of Mr. Balduh's sons, Nafid and Yanouf, escaped unhurt. Mr. Balduh's party, the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), has denounced the killing as fresh evidence of a plot to divide Yemen following a 1990 merger between the north and south.

Aideed followers stage anti-U.N. rally

MOGADISHU (R) — Anti-U.N. protests rang out in Mogadishu Sunday and an aide to warlord Mohamud Farah Aided said a visiting U.S. envoy would be wasting his time if he did not talk peace directly with General Aided's party. About 2,000 followers of Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance (SNA) staged the protest on the eve of a visit by envoy Robert Oakley, charged with helping refocus U.S. policy on a political settlement in Somalia and ending bloody confrontations. Protesters directed their anger at the United Nations and its Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, accused by Gen. Aided's camp of turning a U.N. peace mission into an intervention force.

Tourabi calls meeting to settle disputes

KHARTOUM (AP) — The man who is the power behind Sudan's Islamic government said Sunday he was calling a conference of Arab and Muslim leaders to settle their various disputes — and show Sudan is not sponsoring "terrorism." Hassan Tourabi, a veteran Sudanese politician, told reporters the meeting in December would aim at ending disputes between warring factions within Muslim nations but would include leaders and thinkers from non-Islamic countries. He noted that he also hoped the meeting would change the minds of some countries that have accused his Khartoum-based popular Arab and Islamic conference of supporting international "terrorism." "We are sure they will see for themselves that there is no terrorism in the whole idea," he said.

U.N. suspends Sarajevo airlift

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations temporarily suspended emergency aid flights to besieged Sarajevo Sunday after unidentified forces sprayed the airport runway with gunfire, wounding a French officer.

2 Palestinians killed amid settler rampage

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two Palestinians died Sunday, one of them stabbed by Israeli settlers and the other shot by Israeli soldiers, as settlers continued a rampage in the occupied territories.

Settlers warned they would adopt the violent methods of a Palestinian group, which earlier claimed responsibility for the murder of a settler.

Settler spokesman Aaron Domb said on Israeli radio that if Jews were prevented from moving around the West Bank normally and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin compared the settlers to the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), "we shall start behaving like Hamas."

Mr. Rabin Saturday night criticised both Hamas and Israeli settlers hostile to peace between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Mr. Domb said settlers would block main roads in the West Bank again Monday and would "continue to throw stones at Palestinian cars, and set fire to them."

"The prime minister's state-

ments comparing us to Hamas tear at the heart of the Jewish nation," said Mr. Domb.

Dozens of settlers placed burning tyres across main roads early Sunday, outraged at the killing of 23-year-old Chaim Mizrahi by Palestinian militants, following his abduction Friday.

The barricades were removed a few hours later by the army with no resistance from the Jews, military officials said.

The armed wing of Hamas, Izzeddin Al Qassam, claimed responsibility for the attack Sunday, saying it "knifed the Jewish settler and burned his body."

The charred remains of Mizrahi, an egg merchant from the Beth El settlement in the Ramallah region, were found in the burned-out wreck of a Peugeot on Saturday near Al Bireh, where he was abducted.

Mr. Rabin said after violent demonstrations by settlers Saturday that "the opponents of peace on the Israeli side throw stones and burned cars to target Arabs."

"Our task is to beat the enemies and opponents of peace, because either of them

could pull down the peace process in which we have engaged by fanning the flames," the premier said.

An Israeli settler killed a Palestinian who allegedly stabbed him in the hand and back near the entrance to the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian reporters said Tamer Zeyara, 21, of Gaza City was shot during an argument with the Israeli over work.

Sunday's second killing was of a Palestinian who was shot by Israeli soldiers when the driver of the car he was travelling did not stop at a checkpoint, reports said.

Since the autonomy plan was signed, four Israeli civilians and two soldiers have been killed, reportedly by Islamic fundamentalists. Twelve Palestinians have also been killed during the same period.

The official leadership of the Jewish settlers announced that starting Monday, they would not allow Arab cars headed to work to travel on the West Bank roads from 4:30 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. (0230 GMT to 0500 GMT) "as their contribution to national security."

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'Rabin to seek U.S. assurances'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will ask President Bill Clinton for U.S. security assurances next week in exchange for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, an Israeli daily reported Sunday.

Mr. Rabin moved his scheduled visit to the United States up two weeks to accelerate the peace process with Syria, the report said.

A spokesman for Mr. Rabin would not confirm or deny the report in the mass-circulation Yedioth Ahronoth.

"We do not publicly discuss issues on the agenda between the prime minister and the president," spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said.

Mr. Ben-Ami confirmed that Mr. Rabin was scheduled to meet with Mr. Clinton in Washington on Nov. 12, although this was subject to change.

The report, which did not cite sources, said Mr. Rabin would ask Mr. Clinton to include Israel at the highest level of intelligence sharing, and to permit the sale of modern weapons systems to Israel.

Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to Washington and the leader of the bilateral talks with Syria, told the daily Haaretz newspaper it was Syrian President Hafez Al Assad who was delaying the talks.

"He has not changed his position until now, and that makes progress very difficult."

Haaretz quoted Mr. Rabinovich as saying, "He wants to come to an arrangement on his terms, regarding substance and regarding how to achieve the arrangement."

President Assad said Saturday that Syrian-Israeli peace talks could eventually make progress but he did not say if Syria would take part in a next round of negotiations in Washington.

"We consider the peace process to be continuing. It has not broken down. When it breaks down it breaks down for good," he told reporters at Latakia airport, where he was saying goodbye to visiting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Jordan has 'no fear whatsoever' of cooperation with Israel after outstanding problems are resolved

WASHINGTON (R) — King Hussein has "no fear whatsoever" of cooperation with Israel, he said in an interview published Saturday in U.S. News World Report.

In the interview conducted this week, King Hussein told the magazine he saw tremendous opportunities growing out of greater cooperation with Israel following the Israel-Palestinian accord signed in Washington Sept. 13.

"In the past, one might say we've been the best of enemies. In the context of peace, I think the possibilities... are unbelievable for joining together to secure a better future for everyone," the magazine quoted him as saying.

King Hussein said some Jordanians were afraid of



forging links to Israel, but he

disagreed.

"I have no fear whatsoever. This is a period of very rapid movement," he said, although he noted that many issues needed to be resolved

before any economic or other

cooperation agreements

could be signed.

He said it was also important to "build a solid foundation of trust" between Jordan and the Palestinians before

jumping into any confederation.

"Let's dispel all these misconceptions of our having any ambitions except to move ahead and secure the freedom for people to eventually decide what they want," he said.

"We need time. So much damage over the years can only be altered through real cooperation."

King Hussein said he was confident the Palestinians would master negotiations and planning for the start of self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho in December.

But he stressed that it was also important that "they ensure their credibility, that they stick to the letter of the agreements, that the leadership represent all Palestinians."

2 French hostages rescued in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian security forces have freed two of three French consular staff kidnapped a week ago, Algerian Television announced Sunday.

The two were freed late Saturday after "a massive search operation" the government statement said.

A search was under way for the third person, Michele Thevenot, the wife of one of the two men freed, the television said.

The statement said Jean-Claude Thevenot and Alain Freissier were in "good health." The two flew out late Sunday on a French military plane.

The three employees of the French consulate here were kidnapped by suspected Islamic fundamentalists as they

Peres: Israel does not want to control Palestinian economy

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has no intention of controlling the economy of the occupied territories once Palestinian autonomy has gone into effect, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday.

Mr. Peres, who was addressing more than 2,000 businessmen at a conference, said Israel had not "given up territory in order to control the lives of the Palestinians."

"We have no intention of acting as bosses over their economy," he added.

The conference delegates included several hundred Palestinians and a delegation of about 10 Moroccan businessmen.

Mr. Peres proposed the creation of an "economic triangle" consisting of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories, "because our economies are indivisible and we share the same riches in the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea."

The minister said a shared international airport could be built in Jordan near the Red Sea, along with a port used by Jordan, Israel and the Palestinians.

"The future of the region lies in raising its inhabitants' living standards, because poverty is a breeding ground for Muslim fundamentalism, and the Arab leaders know that that is more dangerous than Israel," Mr. Peres said.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an autonomy deal on Sept. 13 in Washington, and Jordan and Israel signed an agenda for peace the next day.

At Sunday's conference Israel's Koor Industries conglomerate launched a joint venture with Spanish, Moroccan and Palestinian investors for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I announce Salam 2000, a project launched by Koor for investment in the territories. It

is a joint venture by Palestinians, Israelis and Europeans," chief executive officer Benjamin Gaon told the Jerusalem Business Conference 93.

Mr. Gaon said plans included projects for cement, food, transport, phones, construction and agriculture.

Mario Conde, president of the Spanish bank Banco Espanol de Credito-Banesto, said the bank was committing \$60 million. Banesto is Spain's third largest bank, with more than \$50 billion in deposits.

The Moroccan party is Omnium Nord Africain (ONA) and the Palestinian group of investors is headed by international businessman Jawid Gussien.

Mr. Gaon said the group was planning to list its shares in New York with the goal of raising another \$100 to \$150 million in capital. He said he hoped Arab-Americans would

(Continued from page 5)

Karak, a cradle of politicians, turns tribal in run-up to polls

This is the second in a series of articles on candidates, their campaigns, strategies and chances for the Nov. 8 elections in individual constituencies:

From Lamis K. Andoni in Karak

AT DUSK, men start arriving at the big bedouin tents, framed with white bulbs, to express support for and solidarity with a prominent conservative politician from one of Karak's leading tribes.

The tribe elders and community leaders are seated on coloured mattresses and chairs in the centre of the tents, while other supporters line up rows of plastic chairs brought in for the occasion.

There is hardly any discussion of politics — the elders have absolute confidence in the "tribe's son" and their major concern is to help him secure a seat in the domed Parliament House in Amman.

Unlike four years ago, when an influential candidate of the same tribe lost to younger and more opposition-minded politicians, the prospects for the conservatives to dominate the scene seem much stronger this time around.

The majority of the 64 candidates contesting Karak's eight seats belongs to a traditionalist background, including a high number of former army officers who do not challenge government policies. Many of them, according to observers in Karak, nominated themselves or were "encouraged" by people of influence to run "in order to burn the leftist candidates."

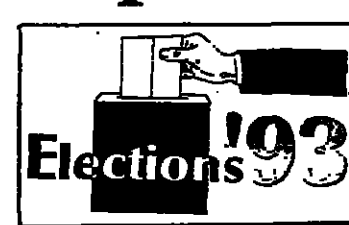
There are at least six leftist candidates — including a representative of the Progressive

Socialist Party, an offshoot of the Jordanian Communist Party, Issa Mdanat, a candidate of the Arab Baathist Party, Abdul Wahab Taleen, two independent pan-Arabists, Samir Habashneh, who belongs to the Progressive Arab Party, but who is running independently, and Sultan Tarawneh, a former Baathist who joined opposition to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in 1973.

But the competition is tough on all sides; the Islamists have backed a candidate to weaken the chances of a senior former official, while the leftists and pan-Arab nationalists seem to be undercutting each other by failing to agree on a unified list.

Mr. Habashneh, a writer and agriculture expert, is said to have strong chances since he has been the only leftist in Karak who has his tribe's full backing and is mainly depending on their votes to reach Parliament.

The introduction of the one-person, one-vote system has practically scuttled all efforts for alliances and the usual vote-bartering that used to be practised among tribes and political groups. The one-person, one-vote approach, as traditionalists and leftists agree, makes it difficult for any bloc to lead Karak in the elections, and hence weakens chances for the domination of one group, but at the same time pits all



groups against each other at the expense of common platforms — at least as the electoral map suggests in Karak.

Thus the campaigns in Karak are highly individualistic while political platforms are definitely the focal point of the candidates. The multi-coloured banners, in contrast to Amman's mostly white banners, that line the narrow streets of the old city reflect a prevailing trend of an almost opposition-campaign in its slogans. Furthermore, the parties contesting the elections, with the exception of the Islamic Action Front, are not advertising their candidates as such but as individuals — in a sign of the irrelevance so far of any party appeal vis-a-vis tribal affiliations.

The "apolitical" manifestations of the campaigns, however, reflect a highly political contest in terms of the clash of interests between the traditionalists and the left of the centre, left and pan-Arabists, or in more general terms, between the conservative traditionalists and those who want to expand the system.

Judging by the highly mobilised and funded campaigns of the conservatives, tribalism, favouritism and family allegiances are replacing party affiliations, political platforms and debates.

If this continues to be the case, the upcoming elections could prove to be a reversal of a trend that reached its peak during the Gulf crisis, when younger and more politicised members of the clan seemed to have undercut the influence of the tribal chiefs who wanted to support Saudi Arabia and the war against Iraq.

There are no attempts by the tribal elders to defend or justify their positions in that period. In fact the atmosphere at the big tents adjacent to a modern villa and turquoise-domed mosque is tranquil, relaxed, and almost festive. The air of confidence seems to reflect a determined will by the conservatives and traditionalists to make a strong comeback to the helm of Karak leadership — in their view whether it is a ministerial post or parliamentary seat makes little difference — for leadership is their right place.

The scene contrasts sharply with more "politicised" and tense campaigns of pan-Arab and leftist independents, who feel intimidated and threatened by the wide-scale campaigns of their opponents.

They try to undercut their conservative opponents by "politicising" the election campaign and "alerting" people against what they describe as "sharp setback in political freedoms" and "official interferences" by the local government in favour of conservative candidates.

"We are now living in an atmosphere of political suffocation," Dirgham Halassa,

an eloquent speaker, said in a speech he made to rally support for Mr. Mdanat, prior to the supreme court's decision to revoke the ban on political rallies in an obvious attempt to focus the campaign on highly political issues.

Mr. Halassa's comments reflect the frustrations of a cornered left, which now finds itself the target of organised campaigns by traditionalists who are exploiting the one-person, one-vote system to strip the campaign of any political substance.

Mr. Halassa was interrupted three times, once by a wedding parade and twice by shouting supporters of a former government official, who

drove around Mr. Mdanat's headquarters blowing the horns of their cars non-stop. But even veteran political party candidates concede that the country's first multi-party election campaigns, at least in Karak, are not politicised.

"Unlike the elections campaign in 1989, the political issues have been pushed back in favour of needs for direct services that people expect from the future deputy," Mr. Mdanat, who had spent 12 years in jail for his political beliefs as a communist, noted with disappointment.

Mr. Mdanat was the only representative of the Jordan Communist Party (JCP) in the former Parliament after

winning 10,000 votes for one of the two Christian seats in Karak.

During the last campaign party members had to run as individuals since political parties had been banned. Consequently, at least in theory, political parties' candidates stand a better chance in the coming elections after the legalisation of political parties and lifting of martial law.

But on the ground, the situation is very different. Party candidates admit this election will be an uphill struggle.

An observer spending the day in Karak could immediately detect an atmosphere of apathy, or at least absence of enthusiasm, over the elections campaign.

The apparent political apathy contradicts the history of Karak, which has produced leading Jordanian politicians and activists in all political trends. The prevailing lack of interest attitude defies the reputation of Karak as a stronghold for leftist movements and pan-Arab nationalism.

Interviews with candidates, supporters and some residents, however, gradually help in unveiling the puzzle.

For the last four years, since the country's first elections, most of Karak residents did not feel involved in the political struggles that were raging in Parliament.

Many blame the Karak deputies for failing to keep in touch with their constituents and with the people's problems and demands.

"How come we only see them when they need our

(Continued on page 28)



Every street in Amman is bedecked with banners proclaiming the platforms of candidates in the Nov. 8 elections (Photo by Aynsley Floyd).

Hustings get into high gear ahead of Nov. 8 elections

By Saad Hattar
Agence France Presse

AMMAN — The campaign for Jordan's first multi-party election in almost four decades, set for Nov. 8, is in full swing and expected to cost more than \$50 million.

Dozens of huge tents have been erected on empty lots around the country to serve as bases for nearly 550 candidates, scattered over 20 constituencies, vying for the 80-seat Lower House of Parliament.

Under the tents, cups of Arabic coffee are passed from hand to hand, in keeping with tradition, amidst a heated political debate.

"The average expenses for candidates run in the region of \$7,500," said Samih Maaytah, spokesman for the 36 candidates of the Islamic Action Front, an offshoot of the powerful Muslim Brotherhood.

The costs include non-stop coffee hospitality, banners and the non-refundable JD 500 fee to run in the election.

Expenses for some candidates are expected to hit JD 70,000 to cover daily meals of mutton, one-page newspaper advertisements showing the smiling candidate and a budget to enlist campaign workers.

In some cases, Mr. Maaytah noted, candidates pay as much as JD 50 for a single vote. Former Deputy Fakhri Kassar, who is running in Amman, complained that candidates were paying as much as JD 100 for a single vote in some parts of the capital.

The government has stressed it would stay neutral. "We never intervene in favour or against any candidate," said one source, while noting that candidates are all barred time on government-owned television and radio stations.

Jamil Nimri, editor of Al Ahsa weekly who is running in Irbid, north of Amman, on a leftist party slate, said his expenses fell within the lower end, at below JD 5,000.

But independent candidate Awni Bashtir has set a much higher ceiling. He is expected to spend almost JD 15,000 in

Jordan's first multi party elections since 1956.

The economic daily Al Aswaaq has estimated the overall expenses at some JD 35 million.

Sweet shops are working in top gear. Sheep prices have doubled since the launch of the election campaign amidst growing demand for mutton, the main ingredient of the popular dish called mansaf.

"We trade a goat for at least JD 100," said a contented butcher on the outskirts of Amman. Voters expect mansaf, a traditional Arab sweet.

The campaign has also contributed to a temporary easing of unemployment, officially estimated at 14 per cent. Many candidates have recruited young men to muster popular support.

"Over the past four months, I've received JD 100 a month, and a pledge to enroll my brother in a university," says Majed Abdul Aziz, who serves as a candidate's driver and bodyguard.

Mr. Arafat said opposition by Hamas to the peace accord

was "part of our democracy" and he was unworried by it. "We are one family. We haven't any problem," he said.

The region's economic future was far more troubling, he said, noting that the PLO had commitments for only \$500 million of the \$1.7 billion it needed in the first year of self-rule.

"Israel and all the Arabs are in need of a Marshall plan for the whole area," he said, referring to the U.S. programme to foster economic recovery in Europe after World War II.

"Right now, we have to start from zero," he said.

Mr. Arafat said he hoped to get increased help from the Gulf states but had recently also met with the American Jewish Congress about funding. Ten members of Israel's Likud opposition party were also coming to see him, he said.

"There is no turning back," he said.

The Palestinian leader said he had "everything ready to go" for the December start of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, although things were "going more slowly than scheduled."

Initially, he said the PLO would coordinate supervision of the border to Gaza and the bridges across the River Jordan.

Handing over supervision would take one to four months, but Mr. Arafat said he hoped it would be completed before his arrival in Jericho in January.

Mr. Arafat said he would likely travel to Jericho by land from Gaza or via the bridge from Jordan. He also said the next meeting of the Palestine National Council would take place in Jericho or Gaza, but gave no date for the meeting.

Israel recently released Salim Hussein Zerai, the longest-held prisoner from Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, after 23 years in prison for attacks on Israeli soldiers.

But Mr. Rabin cancelled plans to release fundamentalist activists along with 617 other Palestinian prisoners freed Monday after two hitchhiking soldiers were killed in the Gaza Strip last Sunday by Hamas guerrillas disguised as religious Jews.

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Arafat again urges Israel to release Hamas chief Yassin

WASHINGTON (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat again urged Israel to release the founder of the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas from prison in an interview published Saturday by U.S. News World Report.

In the interview, conducted this week at Mr. Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah, the Palestinian leader said it was imperative to release Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, who is ill.

"It is not a bribe, it is a matter of principle," the magazine quoted him as saying.

Mr. Arafat said he had repeatedly discussed the issue with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who has pledged to "go after the Hamas movement."

"I told him we are now in a new atmosphere. I am responsible for all Palestinians," he said.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, opposes the Palestinian self-rule deal Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed in Washington Sept. 13.

The two sides began negotiations this month on implementing the deal, under which Palestinians self-rule will begin in December in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

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PLO leader wants to know why Nusseibeh wants leave

The Jerusalem Post

SARI NUSSEIBEH, one of the senior political figures in the territories, was summoned to Tunis on Wednesday, following his decision to leave for a year of academic research in the U.S., his wife confirmed yesterday.

Nusseibeh, 44, who headed the technical and political committees backing the now defunct local delegation to the peace talks, recently decided to accept a one-year fellowship in philosophy at the Woodrow Wilson Centre of Advanced Studies in Washington. The academic year begins next week.

A source close to PLO leader Yasser Arafat told the Jerusalem Post that "reliable sources in Tunis" told him that "Arafat offered Nusseibeh the opportunity to be in charge of economic affairs in the self-governing authority" if he stayed. The source speculated that Nusseibeh was maneuvering for a better political situation, because "Arafat said the technical committees would become null and void, leaving Nusseibeh frustrated."

Nusseibeh has always denied having political ambitions. He dismissed a newspaper report

last year which named him as future prime minister in a Palestinian cabinet. Despite his support for Arafat, he is known to think that his own political prestige, unlike that of delegation members, was independent of Arafat's goodwill, as he is considered one of the few members of the Palestinian elite with substantial grass roots support.

East Jerusalem sources close to Nusseibeh said that his decision was influenced by death threats and a belief that Arafat has no intention of holding free elections next year. They speculated that Nusseibeh is acting with political acumen.

"If something goes wrong — and he apparently thinks it will — he doesn't want to be associated with it," one source said. "If everything goes all right, he can always come back."

Lucy Nusseibeh told the Post her husband has wanted to go abroad for the past three years, and is doing so now because the political situation is more positive than it has ever been.

The question of his taking a sabbatical abroad was first raised during his four-month detention by the authorities in 1991. But he did not go then because "he did want to give

the impression of having an agreement" with the Israeli authorities, she said.

She did not rule out the possibility that the PLO may give her husband a political role to play in Washington, but doubted that he would postpone his sabbatical for a political role here.

Hassan Abu Libdeh, the deputy head of the technical committees who will take over Nusseibeh's position, said the committees are not defunct. With the prospect of self-rule around the corner, their planning and advisory role has become more urgent than ever, he said.

the newspaper said.

As a sign of good faith, the Iraqis named 10 officers involved in the plot, it said. The Americans said they wanted to check how well-placed the plotters were.

After months of silence, the Clinton administration said it would not back the plot because it could endanger the Middle East peace process, the Sunday Times said.

Jabr passed the message on to the plotters and assumed they would scrap their plans. Instead, they decided to go ahead with the assassination attempt in Baghdad on July 17, when President Saddam attended a parade marking the anniversary of his Baath Party's 1968 seizure of power.

On July 15, Colonel Safwan Al Ghureiri, commander of a tank battalion of the elite Republican Guard, was summoned to "review plans" for the parade, and was arrested, the newspaper said. Hundreds of other officers and retired officers were imprisoned and interrogated over the next few days, it said.

Jabr was quoted as saying he suspected somebody connected with the Americans bet-

rayed the operation because all of the 10 officers on the list given to the CIA were arrested.

The newspaper said most of the coup plotters "were probably executed."

The schedule and location of the parade were changed in case any conspirators had escaped.

Those involved in the London talks included Jassem Moukhlis, an influential lawyer from Tikrit, and Sheikh Taleb Al Suheili, an Iraqi dissident living in Jordan.

It said unnamed American officials confirmed the talks had taken place, but gave no further details.

There have been reports of several abortive coup plots or assassination attempts against President Saddam in recent weeks, although none have been independently confirmed.

Reports in October also said President Saddam's security forces had rounded up hundreds of members of his Tikrit clan and other prominent Sunni Muslims in the biggest purge since he crushed rebellions by Shiite Muslims and Kurdish separatists right after the 1991 Gulf war.

the newspaper said.

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Indonesia wants to sell more helicopters to Iran

BANDUNG, Indonesia (R) — Indonesia's state-run IPTN hopes to sell 14 French-designed civilian Super Puma helicopters to Iran for \$10 to \$12 million each, sources close to the company say.

"It has already been agreed to sell seven non-military Super Pumas to Iran and after that we plan to sell seven more," one source said at IPTN's assembly plant near Bandung, west Java.

The sources, close to IPTN President-Director Jusuf Habibie, said none of the helicopters had been delivered because of payment problems. They gave no details.

Iran and Indonesia, both

Muslim-dominated countries and oil exporters, agreed last year to boost bilateral non-oil trade to \$1 billion a year from \$200 million.

Foreign sales are needed badly by IPTN (Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara), criticised by the World Bank for relying on a protected domestic market despite massive state investment of more than \$1 billion since 1979.

IPTN, which also assembles Super Pumas under licence for military use, says it is not allowed to sell weapons overseas.

"We are not allowed to export weapons. The buyer is only the (Indonesian) Ministry

Of Defence," Jusuf Habibie, who is also Indonesia's research and technology minister, told reporters at Bandung, 180 kilometres from Jakarta.

Inside one of IPTN's assembly plants, at least five Super Pumas with space for 15 civilians and crew appeared completed.

In other areas, completed aircraft and ordinary Pumas were at the end of assembly lines where the workload appeared small.

The sources close to Mr. Habibie said Iran told IPTN it wanted the helicopters for oil industry operations.

"Some people think they will be used for military purposes,"

Mr. Habibie is pushing technology development in Indonesia as a way to make the country modern and competitive.

IPTN, a cornerstone of Indonesia's so-called strategic industries, which also include steel and shipping, devotes only seven per cent of its investment to weapons, Mr. Habibie said.

Foreign operators, ranging from Thailand and Malaysia to Gabon and Chile, have 56 IPTN-produced aircraft. Only one Super Puma is listed as having gone overseas.

Mr. Habibie said opposition by Hamas to the peace accord

was "part of our democracy" and he was unworried by it. "We are one family. We haven't any problem," he said.

The region's economic future was far more troubling, he said, noting that the PLO had commitments for only \$500 million of the \$1.7 billion it needed in the first year of self-rule.

"Israel and all the Arabs are in need of a Marshall plan for the whole area," he said, referring to the U.S. programme to foster economic recovery in Europe after World War II.

"Right now, we have to start from zero," he said.

Mr. Arafat said he hoped to get increased help from the Gulf states but had recently also met with the American Jewish Congress about funding. Ten members of Israel's Likud opposition party were also coming to see him, he said.

"There is no turning back," he said.

The Palestinian leader said he had "everything ready to go" for the December start of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, although things were "going more slowly than scheduled."

Initially, he said the PLO would coordinate supervision of the border to Gaza and the bridges across the River Jordan.

Swedes say they saw Kuwaitis in Iraq jail

KUWAIT (R) — Two Swedes recently freed from jail in Baghdad said Sunday two men who said they were Kuwaitis captured by Iraqis during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis had been among fellow inmates.

Iraq denied it holds any Kuwaitis taken captive during its seven-month occupation of the emirate in 1990-91.

Kuwait claims Iraq holds over 550 Kuwaitis arrested during the occupation.

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Initially, he said the PLO would coordinate supervision of the border to Gaza and the bridges across the River Jordan.

Handing over supervision would take one to four months, but Mr. Arafat said he hoped it would be completed before his arrival in Jericho in January.

Mr. Arafat said he would likely travel to Jericho by land from Gaza or via the bridge from Jordan. He also said the next meeting of the Palestine National Council would take place in Jericho or Gaza, but gave no date for the meeting.

Israel recently released Salim Hussein Zerai, the longest-held prisoner from Mr. Arafat's Fatah movement, after 23 years in prison for attacks on Israeli soldiers.

But Mr. Rabin cancelled plans to release fundamentalist activists along with 617 other Palestinian prisoners freed Monday after two hitchhiking soldiers were killed in the Gaza Strip last Sunday by Hamas guerrillas disguised as religious Jews.

Mr. Arafat said opposition by Hamas to the peace accord

For Israelis, peace means good life and better earnings

By Dan Perry
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Danny Segal went to America three years ago in search of higher wages and to escape army reserve duty in the Gaza Strip. After the signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord, he decided to come home.

Mr. Segal found a country transformed.

"Everyone is talking about raising easy money through the stock market or from foreign or local investors," said the 31-year-old computer programmer.

Among the enticements, Mr. Segal said, are the economic prospects of an Israel at peace and burgeoning interest from potential employers offering salaries similar to what he earned in the United States

— up to \$3,000 a month. "All you need to do is look at the number of start-up companies," he said.

Mr. Segal's homecoming this month seemed to bear out the predictions of those who have argued that a painful compromise with the PLO would bring war-weary Israelis hard cash and a good life.

Israelis "increasingly just want to make money, stay with the kids, and not go to reserve army duty," said Robert Rosenberg, a novelist and social commentator in Tel Aviv.

Right-wing opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu accuses the government of spreading unfounded euphoria about the economic windfalls of peace.

With Foreign Minister Shimon Peres talking about a Middle East common market, joint Israeli-Arab airports and

the region turning green via Israeli irrigation techniques, some experts believe Mr. Netanyahu may have a point.

Predictions that Israel will become "the Hong Kong of the Middle East" and a tourist centre are dreams, said Eli Saguy, a Tel Aviv University economist.

Mr. Saguy believes Israeli access to Arab markets will not have nearly the impact some expect. Israel can generate much greater revenue from high-tech exports to Western markets than by selling vegetables to Arab states, he said.

But the government is right in linking peace and prosperity. "We foresee a very good decade of some seven per cent annual growth. This is unequivocally conditioned on the peace process continuing and advancing in the right direction," he said. "Without it,

we're in bad shape."

With a reduction in military expenditures, resources will be freed for education and infrastructure, the kinds of investments that will raise living standards, he said.

A study conducted by Economic Models, a Tel Aviv thinktank, also foresees huge growth in foreign investment, with American companies becoming an integral part of the economy.

Japan and European countries, freed of the Arab boycott of Israel, would also provide a boost, the study said.

Israel and the PLO signed the accord for Palestinian autonomy on Sept. 13. But Mr. Saguy said Israel's road to prosperity began in the mid-1980s and accelerated with the arrival of hundreds of thousands of highly skilled immigrants from the former

Soviet Union.

Israel is now a relatively prosperous country, with an export-driven, high-tech economy generating a standard of living already higher than parts of the European Community.

Industrial production and exports are both up some 25 per cent in the past two years, according to official statistics.

Among other signs of the times:

— The Tel Aviv stock exchange, one of the most profitable in the world in 1992, has gone up 15 per cent since the peace accord was announced.

— American chains such as Tower Records, McDonald's, Pizza Hut, the Gap and Hard Rock cafe are becoming local fixtures.

— Top pop acts such as Michael Jackson, Madonna, Bob Dylan and Elton John have all played Israel recently.

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PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	.. Les Aventuriers de L'Espace
18:00 Omnisciences
18:30 Maguy
19:00	..... News in French
19:15	..... The weekly sport magazine
19:30	..... News in Hebrew
20:00	..... News in Arabic
20:30	..... Delta
21:10	..... The House of Eliott
22:00	..... News in English
22:30	..... The Chancer

PRAYER TIMES

04:29	..... Fajr
05:47	..... (Sunrise) Dhuha
7:19	..... Duha
4:42:23	..... 'Asr
16:51	..... Maghrib
18:59	..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 811740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 634591.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrenceaux Church Tel. 622346
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assuan International Church Tel. 655226.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624326.
German-speaking Evangelical Community Tel. 684195.
The Holy Family Sakins Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy to cloudy as temperatures will drop. Rain will fall and winds will be westerly active. In Arabia, it will be dusty, partly cloudy, with a few showers. In Jordan, it will be thunderous rain and fall. Winds will be southerly active and seas rough.

Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	..... 15 / 20
Aqaba	..... 19 / 28
Damascus	..... 12 / 23
Jordan Valley	..... 18 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 33 Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 45 per cent.



NAMING A PRINCE: His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Sunday attend a special ceremony to celebrate the naming of His Royal Highness Prince Omar Ben Faisal, who was born Friday Oct. 22.

Prince Omar was named by his grandfather King Hussein. He is the second child of Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal and Princess Alia. Their first child, Princess Aya, is three years old (Petra photo)

Seminar aims to create opportunities in resources development sectors

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar entitled "Jordan Infrastructure Development" (JID) will be held at the Forte Grand Hotel today (Monday) in order to create new opportunities for British companies to contribute to the development of three key sectors in Jordan — water, energy and mineral resources, according to a statement.

The seminar aims to encourage a mutually beneficial partnership between British companies and Jordanian government organisations and private companies, the statement said.

The one-day briefing aims to:

— give firms a highly fo-

— provide advice on follow-up.

The JID seminar is organised by a group led by the British embassy in Amman and comprising two Jordanian companies (Amin Kawa and Sons Company, and the Arab Potash Company) and four British companies already in Jordan (British Bank of the Middle East, Merz and McLellan, G. Wimpey International

and Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick).

According to the statement, the seminar will be attended by more than 40 British participants representing 27 British companies, in addition to the Department of Trade and Industry in London and the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce.

The ministries of Planning, Water and Irrigation and Energy and Mineral Resources will give presentations on current and future infrastructure development plans.

Other government organisations and around 30 Jordanian companies will participate in the seminar.

Jordan to receive DM 11m in German technical aid

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to receive 11 million German marks (DM) in technical aid from Germany for the Ministry of Agriculture and the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), in accordance with the terms of three memoranda signed in Amman Sunday.

The first memorandum provides DM 3 million to benefit the Agricultural Extension Service and a project now being implemented in cooperation with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) to improve the quality of products.

The assistance to be provided will be in the form of experts, computers and other equipment, as well as specially equipped vehicles for agricultural projects.

The second memorandum, worth DM 5.5 million, provides technical assistance for WAJ operations and the maintenance of water net-

works to reduce water leakage from pipes. This project is being executed by WAJ in cooperation with GTZ.

GTZ will provide training to Jordanian personnel in operating and maintaining water equipment and networks, as well as expertise in managing water networks, land surveys and the finances of these activities.

Under the third memorandum, DM 2.5 million will be provided in consultancy services to WAJ to help it conduct studies on underground water resources. GTZ will supply the experts, vehicles and computers among other equipment needed for the project, which is being executed in cooperation with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA).

Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners signed the memoranda at the Ministry of Planning.



Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz (second from right) and German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reiners (centre) Sunday sign three

memoranda whereby Germany will provide Jordan with DM 11 million worth of technical aid (Petra photo)

German expert receives medal for services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has honoured a German afforestation expert for his services to the Ministry of Agriculture and its various departments and for directing a project for the development of the Zarqa River Basin between 1986 and 1989.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal presented Laslo Pancel Al Kawkab Medal of the Third Order in recognition of his work.

Dr. Pancel has worked closely with a Jordanian team of experts in developing forest lands and establishing a centre for cultivating tree saplings and seeds, in projects financed by the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ). From his experience in Jordan, Dr. Pancel wrote a book entitled "The Management of Jordanian Forests".

Keen on protecting wildlife

reserves, Dr. Pancel also conducted a study on the development of Dana Reserve in the south.

His work with the Ministry of Agriculture included supervising personnel training in forest development and conducting several activities aimed at ensuring the protection of the environment and the preservation of forest trees.

Born in former Yugoslavia in 1952, Dr. Pancel went to Germany where he obtained German citizenship and his doctorate from the University of Hamburg.

Before coming to Jordan, Dr. Pancel worked for the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Community and GTZ.



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal (left) presents Laslo Pancel with Al Kawkab Medal of the Third Order for his services to the ministry

Elections '93

EC grant to help finance cost of elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) delegation in Jordan Sunday granted the Kingdom JD550,000 to help finance the cost of conducting the 1993 general elections.

Interior Minister Salameh Hamad, who signed the grant agreement, voiced Jordan's appreciation to the EC and thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for its efforts in securing the assistance.

EC representative Jean Pierre Pierard, who signed the agreement for the EC, said the grant was part of the community's contribution to supporting the Kingdom's democratic march and in appreciation of the country's drive towards safeguarding human rights.

All kinds of assistance provided by the EC to Jordan has been "well used and it is hoped that the Ministry of Interior would benefit from the grant in financing the election process, said Mr. Pierard, in a brief statement to Jordan Television.

Candidate withdraws from race

Karak Governor Khalaf Mahasneh Sunday announced that Riyadh Hurub, a candidate in the general elections, has withdrawn from the race.

Mr. Mahasneh, said that two other candidates, Shaher Rawashdeh and Ali Tarawneh withdrew earlier. He said 63 candidates remain in the contest for nine seats in the Karak constituency. Mr. Mahasneh did not disclose the reason for the withdrawals.

JTA sells \$1m worth of products in Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Benefiting from the Sudanese-Jordanian Trade Protocol of 1992 and other agreements on barter trade, the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) has sold \$1 million worth of Jordanian products in Sudanese markets in one year, according to JTA Executive Director Halim Abu Rahmah.

One year ago JTA opened an office in Khartoum to promote the sale of Jordanian products in Sudan.

He said JTA plans to expand to other African countries such as Eritrea and Ethiopia through the JTA Khartoum

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali meets with Jordan's new envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday called on the newly-appointed Jordanian ambassadors to Syria, Qatar, Yemen, Morocco, Belgium, China, Germany, Australia, Greece and Australia to exert every possible effort in developing bilateral relations with Arab and friendly countries. At a meeting with the new envoys held at the Prime Ministry, Dr. Majali said ambassadors have an important role to play in explaining Jordan's positions on political, economic, Arab and international issues. The Prime Minister called for activating the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to implement His Majesty King Hussein's directives contained in his letter of designation to the government. Dr. Majali emphasised the importance of enhancing relations between Jordanian communities abroad and the homeland. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan. Also Sunday Dr. Majali called at the Department of the Chief Islamic Justice, where he attended part of the weekly meeting of the department's senior officials.

Terminal 1 reopens at QAIA

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) Monday resumes its flights from Terminal 1 at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). The terminal had been closed for renovations for more than two months.

Investments register JD 163m in 1992

AMMAN (Petra) — The total investment volume in the country in 1992 amounted to JD 163 million, up from JD 94 million the year before. The number of companies investing in the economic sector also rose from 4,145 companies in 1991 to 4,556 in 1992.

Team to attend vocational training seminar in Italy

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will be one of a group of Arab countries taking part in a vocational training seminar to open in Turin, Italy on Nov. 2. The head of the participating team, Ali Nasrallah, said the six-week seminar will tackle planning, organisation and supervision of vocational training programmes and will present a working paper on Jordan's experience in vocational training.

Jordan to take part in housing meeting in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the 11th meeting of the Arab League Council of Arab Ministers of Housing and Construction due to open in Cairo on Nov. 12, according to an announcement here Tuesday. Topics on the agenda of the three-day parley include preparations for an Arab regional conference to chart strategies on housing in the Arab World and a report on the housing situation in Lebanon in the aftermath of wars and civil strife in the country, according to the announcement. Activities connected with the U.N. Centre for Population Settlements will also be taken up at the meeting. The Jordanian delegation to the Cairo meeting will be led by Minister of Public Works and Housing Khalaf Hawari.

2 groups of tour operators due to arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — A Canadian tour operator group will pay a week-long visit to Jordan beginning Nov. 9, at the invitation of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The group, which will be accompanied by several journalists and representatives of Canadian radio and television companies will discuss with ministry officials and tourism sector representatives scopes of cooperation between both countries. Another tour operators group from Qatar will spend a week in Jordan, starting Nov. 3, also at the invitation of the ministry, which is working with Royal Jordanian to promote tourism to the Kingdom.

Rapporteur discusses Al Amal Centre progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The first stage of Al Amal Cancer Centre, located near the Jordan University Hospital, will become operational in April 1994 and every effort is being exerted to meet this deadline, said the task force rapporteur Abdullah Al Khatib Sunday. By April next year, at least JD16.5 million would have been spent on constructing and furnishing the centre which will have 100 beds and special wings for children, along with various sections for the treatment of cancer, said Dr. Khatib at a press conference called to report on the progress of the centre. He said that the construction work on the main building has been completed, mechanical and electrical works are underway and together with the furnishings, all structural works are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 1994. Work on the 23,720 square metre centre started in 1989 with support from the government and donations from the community, said Dr. Khatib.

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police are searching for a suspect or suspects who reportedly stole two batteries and a solar cell from the seismograph at the Shobak Seismological Station, a police report said.

An employee of the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) told police that when he went to check the station on Saturday, he discovered that the door of the station had been broken and equipment was missing from the seismograph (an instrument that records the

force and direction of earthquakes).

An official at the NRA at the Ministry of Energy said this was not the first time a seismological station was burglarised. The official, who preferred anonymity, explained that the batteries and solar cells can be used to operate televisions and automobiles.

"This is the third time one of our 40 seismological stations has been burglarised," the official said.

What is unfortunate, he added, is that the Shobak station will not function without the missing equipment, and 10 seismological stations in the

south will be paralysed because the Shobak station acts as a relay post which transmits and receives the waves from the other 10 stations.

"It is a waste of government money, and it will cost the ministry approximately JD 1,500 to replace the stolen equipment," the official said.

"It will take some time before the Shobak station will operate because such equipment is not available in the local market and must be imported from foreign companies," he added.

The official told the Jordan Times that he hoped that these

burglaries would stop because, he said, it is a threat to the people. He explained that if an earthquake is about to occur in the south, the seismographs would record it, but would not be able to transmit the signals.

The official was concerned that people would blame the Jordan Seismological Observatory for not warning them ahead of time.

He added that it is difficult to place a guard at every station because it is costly, and the stations are located in the desert, where most people would be reluctant to be posted.

Contemporary Italy to go on display in Amman



Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini Sunday addresses a press conference to announce an Italian cultural week

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday will open the Italian Cultural and Artistic Week, "Piazza Italia," at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel in Amman, Italian Ambassador Romualdo Bettini announced Sunday.

At a press conference, the ambassador said the activities, which will last until Nov. 7, will include several cultural and artistic functions reflecting Italy's contemporary lifestyle.

The event will include a fashion show featuring the latest designs of six famous couturiers, culinary delights, art exhibitions and piano and opera recitals, said Mr. Bettini.

Organised by the Italian embassy in cooperation with Jordanian and Italian institutions, the event aims to enhance the excellent ties between Jordan and Italy, Mr. Bettini added.

He said bilateral trade, industrial and cultural relations would most likely be strengthened as a result of "Piazza Italia," and the public will have an opportunity to experience a sample of Italian progress.

He said that part of the proceeds of the cultural week will be offered to the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sa'di Al Ka'bi at Alla Art Gallery (9:30-13:30 and 1500-1800).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloo at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Bani Hamida fall exhibition: "Autumn Leaves" at the Jordan Contractors Association Building (near the American Embassy in Abdoun) 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ Film in French entitled "Fontaines" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Film entitled "The King and I" at the American Center at 3:00 p.m. (133 minutes).
- ★ Film entitled "The Seven Samurai" at the American Center at 6:00 p.m. (207 minutes; in Japanese with English subtitles).

CORRECTION

In an Oct. 30 report, headlined "Peace requires specific steps for progress — Anani," the Jordan Times incorrectly attributed the organisation of the open debate, in which Dr. Anani spoke, to the Association of Arab University Graduates in Amman. It was in fact the Jordanian Society for Graduates of U.S. Universities which organised the debate. The Jordan Times apologises for the error.

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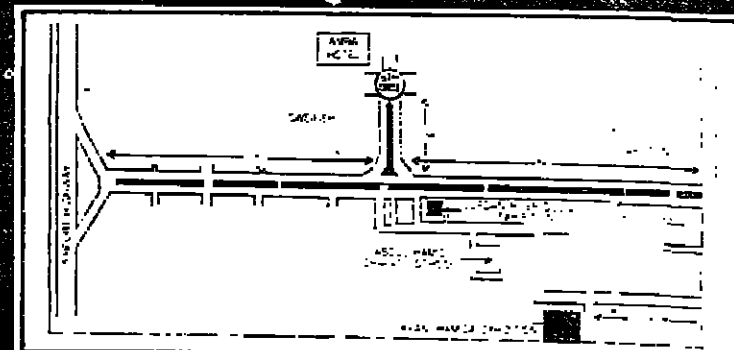
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Signpost on difficult path

TWO DAYS after the Higher Court of Justice reversed a minister of interior decision to ban public rallies, the election campaign seems to have gathered extra momentum and picked up more speed. The ruling has been received with enthusiasm by candidates and political leaders alike, as it has put an end to two weeks of acrimony and accusations against the government that it is interfering in the elections. But, above all, the development highlighted the important role the judiciary can and should play in Jordan's democratisation process.

Two years ago when the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Latif Arabiyat, nearly took residents of Tafleh to Arab for allegedly slandering the House, many politicians, writers and columnists pleaded with the speaker to drop the case, which he did. That was not the only case that was blocked by well-intentioned people, who true to tradition would always want to keep the courts out of disputes and to solve them in the more familiar tribal manner. So far and as far as the democratisation process is concerned the judiciary has not been allowed to assume its role as the final arbiter, and the most effective, in any disputes, especially those involving the government and the legislature. It was therefore difficult to understand why the Islamic Action Front, which was the main party pressing for lifting of the ban on public rallies, had waited for two weeks before going to the court thus losing much valuable time. The judiciary's role extends even beyond the role of a final arbiter. While the Higher Court of Justice is not a constitutional court, something which is a must in a democratic system, it can still interpret laws, set precedents and point to loopholes in existing legislation. And that is what it did in the case at hand.

It is essential for the success of our democratisation process that we, institutions and individuals, should resort more often than we do already to the judiciary to seek solutions to conflicts of interest and clarification of laws and regulations. The Jordanian judiciary system has on many occasions proven its integrity as the balancing branch of government. We should be proud of it and should not hesitate to use it when the right way is difficult to find in our democratic march.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Sunday expressed the view that the Israelis and the Syrians have already reached agreement on a formula ensuring the future of the Golan Heights, but that the two sides are trying to ensure the success of their plan. Saleh Qalab said that Yitzhak Rabin is afraid of a confrontation with the opposition in Israel and fears that any solution with the Syrians would be interpreted by the Likud Party as another concession to the Arabs, following the deal with the Palestinians. Therefore, the Israeli premier is taking time to allow the Israelis to swallow up the Israeli-PLO deal first, before embarking on another step towards Syria, as he is keen on remaining in power and afraid any miscalculation that could topple his government, said the writer. For their part, the Syrians are afraid that the Israelis might change their mind and go ahead with peace plans along other tracks, leaving Syria behind and isolated, he said. The Syrians are counting on the Americans to mediate and to speed up the implementation of the Israeli-Syrian deal before it is too late, continued the writer. The Americans are trying to narrow the gap and, assisted by Hosni Mubarak, the Egyptian President, they are trying to ally Syria's fears about possible isolation and pressure, the Israelis into shortening the time needed to have their own home in order, the writer added. He said that the other Arab parties to the peace process should reassure Syria that it would not be left out in the dark and that the time factor would not adversely affect the deals already concluded between them and the Israelis.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour accused certain Arab countries, without naming them, of working together with western nations to destroy the fledgling unity of Yemen. Mohammad Kawash said that the north and the south Yemen succeeded in creating the only unity in the Arab World and have been on the way towards enhancing this unity when hostile forces intervened to upset the situation. Through conspiracies and intrigues certain hostile forces are trying to spread rumours about disputes among the Yemeni leaders, hoping to destroy the Yemeni people's aspirations for security, stability and unity, the writer said. These forces are trying by all possible means to lay obstacles in the path of the unity and are causing trouble for the leaders of the two sectors of Yemen.

From politics of blame to policies of opportunity

By Izzat R. Dajani

Jordan is busy nowadays preparing itself for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections. Jordanians are approaching this through different paths and motives. Some are simply apathetic. Others put state interest before self. Tribal allegiances are important to some whilst political principles and beliefs dominate the attitudes of others. However, one dominant factor is almost always shared by different groups: the politics of blame!

Previous governments are accused by many of being rather inefficient, bureaucratic, insensitive and non-productive due to archaically-structured institutions. The last Parliament is considered by some to be non-representative, incoherent, weak politically and poor functionally. Many street banners and candidates' slogans coopt the politics of blame in a rhetoric frenzy. There are real grounds to this but the pledged notions for the alternative remain flimsily drawn by most candidates.

Slogans are used by them as substitutes for policy or masks for lack of it.

To long-established democracies, elections are just the beginning of the democratic process. Elections are very often followed by changes in institutions, leading to instilling a different culture in government with the superseding effect of changed philosophy and approach to management of state affairs. Such institutions remain free and open, allowing the smooth transformation to serve the common good of the people, who are themselves the very fabric of the state.

To young democracies such as ours, elections are very often the end to the process. They are the means to the political cul-de-sac. Political programmes do not often materialise as they are invariably inadequate or poor. Political "homework" succumbs to family influences, tribal obligations or meager preparations. No party political lines are yet fully established. This morass is further by parliamentarianism muted through ministerial

appointments or cooption into traditional ideologies.

Democracy should not be confused with elections. Elected legislators must use their skills and popular support to force change that would lead to institutional development, improve functioning of government and strengthen the state. It is the duty of the legislature to make sure that able people are not shoved aside but are rather encouraged to be part of Jordan's democratic fabric that seeks improvement of the system. It is time to give merit a chance and it can no longer be based on "old-boy" networks and obsolete formulas. Merit must be based on excellence. It is time that appointments in the public sector be offered to the most competent, irrespective of gender, religion, roots and origins.

Jordan has invested vast financial resources to educate its people, send them to schools and help them attain academic achievements. These people formed the pool that was responsible for servicing much of the infrastructure in

many parts of the Arab World. They cannot be told to stay out of the decision-making process just because they do not fit a certain privileged criteria. A nation cannot maintain its position if it does not strive for excellence. Jordan must make full use of the talents of all its people to service the country's public and private sectors.

It is interesting to note in this context that the gap between the executive branch and the people is narrowed by parliaments functioning in a democratic setup. Parliaments are intended to bring the leadership closer to the sentiments and aspirations of the people and are not intended to rubber stamp government policies.

The fundamental paradigm remains that the legislature's elected body must have loyalties to the state, its institutions and the system of governance. Otherwise, such a body is rendered futile and flimsy. If loyalties of the legislature does not relate to the real needs of the people, then the quality of its judgment may be appealing, but certainly not useful.

Parliament and government should not supply illusions but come up with solutions. They need to adopt pragmatic policies, challenge alternatives and elevate the possible above the ideal. Entrepreneurship in government means having to declare obsolete products that are no longer relevant to a changing, modern society; government products are its rules, regulations, practices and methods of operation. Important facts should not be ignored or omitted. People must not be denied the understanding they need in order to pass judgements.

In party politics and under party rule, the party dominating over a majority in Parliament runs the government. Unless this is established and systematised, there will be a dichotomy in responsibility for an elected legislature assuming a cabinet post. The honour of the legislature lies in a mystical but exclusive personal responsibility for what he does. However, the honour of the cabinet member is vested in his ability to fully execute the poli-

cies of the government and the orders of the superior authority as if they all agree with his own personal convictions. This is exactly where parliamentarians in Jordan seem to fail once they are appointed to cabinet. The codes of commitment and responsibility can very often assume divergent roles, leading to abandoning one to the benefit of the other. More often than not, cabinet accountability takes precedence over legislative responsibility.

There are those who say our democratic process is new and we must give it more time. Well, that is just an excuse not to act swiftly and confidently. If there is no change, the future will pass our "democratic" setup and render it "history."

We must always look ahead as there is great need to progress fast. We ought to substitute the politics of blame with policies of opportunity. Pragmatism based on tradition should light our path. Both government and Parliament need to remember that good intentions do not always make good policies.

'PLO-Israel agreement is no alternative to the Palestinian cause'

Following is an open letter from Clovis Maksoud, the Arab League's former representative at the U.N., to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, urging him not to relocate to Gaza and Jericho when Israeli troops withdraw from these areas. The letter is reprinted from the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily.

I am writing you in your capacity as president of the state of Palestine to urge you not to go to Jericho and Gaza when local authority is transferred to representatives of the Palestinian state, because Gaza-Jericho will not be a liberated area and the Palestinian authorities there will not exercise national sovereignty but will have local administrative powers only. Although the daily nightmare of occupation will recede, the occupation will not end under the terms of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Your refusal to go to Gaza-Jericho will establish the local authority as an interim body and emphasise the fact that the interim period will lead to a national authority over liberated soil. Your refusal to go there would thus confirm the view of those who believe that the agreement is a prelude to the exercise of the right of self-determination by the Palestinian people, a first step towards the independent state of Palestine. It would serve as a driving force pushing that energies and accelerates steps towards national sovereignty.

The local authority to be established under the terms of the Sept. 13 agreement, along with all the institutions it creates, would then draw their authority from the PLO. But if you go to Gaza-Jericho under the terms of this agreement, this could imply — I believe it would imply — that "an occupied state has accepted the idea that its national soil is disputed territory, not the soil of an occupied state."

We know how much it would mean to you to be on Palestinian soil and among the Palestinian people for whose

M. KAHIL



liberty, dignity and sovereignty you have fought so long. But your leadership position and legal status dictate that you stay out of unliberated land.

Israel does not acknowledge that it is an occupying power in a Palestinian state. This means that its "withdrawal" from Gaza-Jericho under the terms of the agreement is not a legal withdrawal consistent with the Fourth Geneva Convention but a mere redeployment that can be reversed should "security" considerations demand.

By staying out of Gaza-Jericho, you will be sending a clear signal that you will read only on liberated land, thus confirming what the international community has recognised: that the Palestinian territories are not occupied territories, that Israel's attempts to turn them into disputed territories are not part of the agreement and that the interim agreement does not strip the territories of their status as the occupied territories of the Palestinian state proclaimed on Nov. 15, 1988. In other words, the agreement between the PLO, as the representative of the Palestinian people, and

Israel, as far as the Palestinians are concerned, a transition to the implementation of the U.N. resolutions, not an alternative to them.

Your refusal to go to Gaza-Jericho would give the Palestinian negotiators at all levels increased leverage in their efforts to extract an Israeli admission that the Jewish state is an occupying power, thereby preventing Israel from using that argument to avoid implementing the U.N. resolutions relating to Palestinian rights. This would draw the contours of the next stage as of now, making it clear that the final-status negotiations are meant not to explore Palestinian national rights but to crystallise and consolidate them as inalienable.

The local Palestinian authorities should be regarded as temporary mechanisms in the service of the liberation process, in charge of managing people's daily affairs as a prelude to the rise of a national authority.

Israel is trying to exaggerate the significance of this agreement, presenting it as a final peace treaty in order to use it as a Trojan horse that can take it into horizons that have been closed to it because of its constant violation of international laws and conventions.

Israel and the U.S. are trying to give the international community the impression that the handshake was the reconciliation, but the fact is that the Gaza-Jericho accord, while it is an inescapable reality, is a limited, temporary

formula arrived at under duress, not out of conviction; and the interim period is not a test of the Palestinians' abilities but of Israel's readiness to abide by the dictates of international legitimacy.

By refusing to go to Gaza-Jericho, you give the agreement its actual size and prevent Israel from using it to write a Middle East agenda and draw a Middle East map that serve its well-known future objectives.

I stress the need to present the agreement in its actual size because media exaggeration has blown it out of all proportions and thereby made it look like a sick agreement. Knowing the limits of the agreement makes it a sound springboard to an interim stage in which the PLO and the international community can extract the final stage from the ambiguity in which it is now lost.

Also, making the limits of the agreement known can be the key to Palestinian national unity, while continued exaggeration of its significance nurtures disputes that can ensnare the agreement itself in the Israeli interpretation of it while at the same time allowing Israel to use the agreement to release itself of any commitment to implementing U.N. resolutions on Arab rights in general and Palestinian rights in particular.

By refusing to go to Gaza-Jericho, you send a signal that you are not content with the provisions of this agreement. This will spare the Palestinians the prospect of needless disputes between opponents and proponents of the agreement.

Bogus support of the agreement gives the impression that its success is inevitable, and opposition of the agreement gives either the impression that its failure is inevitable or the impression that it must be thwarted. The dispute is thus built on both sides' exaggerated assessment of the agreement, which should be seen as an agreement limited to the local administrative dimension that does not go

into the political issue of sovereignty.

By signing the agreement, you gained recognition of the Palestinian people and of the PLO as their legitimate representatives. The preservation of these gains now hinges on a clear definition of the scope of the agreement — the fact that it does not negate the right to resist occupation, or to continue to prepare for the final stage, in which the Arabs and the U.N. must be actively engaged in order to keep the Palestinian cause in international spotlight and make sure that the outcome is consistent with the Arab national interest and international legitimacy.

It may be argued that your going to Gaza-Jericho would bolster support for the agreement and spur efforts to make it a success. That is true, considering the respect, appreciation and love that you command. However, the object here is not to increase support for the agreement. Far more important than that is the need for the agreement, with its limited, interim nature, to prevent the Palestinian leadership from relocating to territories that remain under occupation; and the need to keep the agreement from inhibiting the Palestinian technological, administrative and services talents, which have been waiting so long to prove themselves and which need political accord among the various Palestinian political factions to do so.

By staying out of Gaza-Jericho, the Palestinian political leadership can delegate administrative power to the local authorities, provide them with political discipline, launch a dialogue with the various Palestinian leaders and resume coordination with the other Arab parties concerned, especially Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, striving to remobilise the Arab power that has fallen prey to exhaustion and disaffection.

For the agreement is not an alternative to the Palestinian cause.

Democrat asks Christopher to resign

By Frank McCloskey

WASHINGTON — As a loyal Democrat and supporter of President Clinton, I believe, with regret, that Secretary of State Warren Christopher should resign. He has severely damaged the national interest through failed leadership in difficult situations that have required a firm hand. These crises, in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Russia and Haiti, are likely to worsen because of the administration's flawed policies.

Our Bosnia policy has been an utter failure. Mr. Christopher has vacillated and obfuscated the issue of Serbian aggression. In early February, he defined our strong strategic interests in the region and stated that our response to the war would serve as a test case of how we handled ethnic and minority concerns throughout the world. By June, he was saying we had no vital interests at stake and that our primary goal was to stop the killing.

The State Department has pressured the Bosnian parliament to accept a partition agreement that would ratify Serbian aggression, dismember Bosnia and lead to officially

sanctioned "ethnic cleansing" and more fighting. Mr. Christopher steadfastly refused to describe Serbian atrocities in Bosnia as genocide. Why?

More than 200,000 Bosnians have been killed and half of the rest have been driven into exile. More than 380,000 people are in the 18th month of the Sarajevo siege, but Mr. Christopher will not describe this situation as terrorism.

As for Somalia, America has no clear idea what Mr. Christopher believes our interests are and how he believes we should achieve our objectives. I still have no idea why he signed on to Secretary General Boutros Ghali's plans to capture Gen. Mohammed Farah Aideded and to construct democratic institutions in Somalia out of thin air.

In a remarkable reversal prompted by public and congressional pressure, the administration has embraced the Bush policy towards Somalia: We will withdraw our forces and turn nation-building over to the U.N. why did 18 Americans have to die?

In Russia, the administration identifies Boris Yeltsin as the embodiment of democratic reform and is investing all of its faith and aid to Russia in his

survival. Given his erratic behaviour and his crackdown on his opponents and the press, I gravely doubt that he is a true democrat.

More important, we are encouraging violent ultra-nationalists and secessionists throughout the former Soviet Union, by failing to address Serbian aggression in the Balkans.

In Haiti, we allowed peacekeepers to be turned back by a theatrical display by a few hundred thugs. Mr. Christopher has defined the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide as a strategic interest. But as his elastic views of America's interest show, the use of "strategic" can really only refer to President Clinton's short-term domestic political interests.

So while it may have been fair in February for the administration to suggest that it inherited the crisis in Bosnia, repeating this claim now and adding Somalia and Haiti suggest an expedient denial of responsibility.

Our allies do not see Mr. Christopher as effective internationally or as an adequate protector of U.S. interests. Largely because of his tacit

acceptance of Serbian genocide, they do not see him as a spokesman for American values. And this lack of respect can be seen in our Congress — on both sides of the aisle.

In a recent editorial, The Economist called Mr. Christopher "the weakest link in Mr. Clinton's trio of foreign policy advisers," and added: "It is not too late to bring in a genuine enthusiast for foreign policy and one who understands, in the most hard-headed way, how the world works. The ideal candidate would be prepared to work out and articulate, not occasionally but regularly and forcefully, how America's principles apply to a given problem, where its interests in the matter lie, and how far it will go to defend them."

Mr. Warren Christopher has distinguished himself in other spheres. But if he continues on his present course, he will do further damage to our security and national interests.

Frank McCloskey, Democrat of Indiana, is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

LETTERS

Chauvinism not for us

To the Editor:

In a TV report aired over the weekend, the Cable News Network (CNN) correspondent in Amman, tackled in a rather "novel" way, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, especially in the aftermath of the signing of the PLO-Israeli deal; he brought together Drs. Fehed Faneh and Labeeb Kamhawi to give two diametrically opposite views on that relationship.

I was particularly taken aback, to say the least, by the comments made by Dr. Kamhawi, who made light of the Jordanian identity by asking "who is a Jordanian anyway?" and denying the foremost Jordanian his Jordanianism.

What does Dr. Kamhawi mean by that statement? Is he kidding himself, or what?

The Jordanians, for his information, are those people who appointed him to the Royal Commission of the National Charter, and Jordan is the country that took him in, gave him citizenship and rights and allowed him to prosper, economically and financially, into what he is now.

A man like him, no matter where his roots lie, cannot ignore the Jordanian identity and generosity. This country has existed, in one form or another, throughout recorded history. Don't ingrate like Dr. Kamhawi know what the word belonging means? If he does not, let me say this to him: Jordan should not permit opportunities and chauvinists to deny its and its people's existence and identity.

I believe he owes us, both Jordanians and Palestinians, a public apology for what nonsense he had to say. All Jordanians of Palestinian origin, who I know, certainly reject chauvinist views like his.

Rima Sheer,
P.O. Box 5613,
Amman.

Snippets and tidbits from

Friendly and not so amicable candidates; big promises and mots in election campaigns

A PROMINENT Jordanian politician and Irbid candidate, Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh, has been active on the campaign trail. He has been visiting everyone he could in his election district. Almost guaranteed a place among the winners in that constituency, he apparently still feels that he somehow has not done enough. In yesterday's local papers Mr. Rawabdeh placed an ad apologising to the people he was unable to visit. "I was keen on visiting

every diwan (tribal headquarter) and home and I have tried really hard to do that, but time has caught up with me and I have been unable to visit all my relatives and friends. I hope you will accept my apologies." Maybe he will visit them "after" he is elected, some election pundits from Irbid said. Or he will be too busy managing another ministerial post? Mrs. Rawabdeh, on the other hand, was reported making "warm" social

calls in Irbid by offering heaters and blankets as a means to woo voters to cast their ballot in favour of her husband "Abu Issam." Good luck to both of them, in this campaign and elsewhere.

NOTORIOUS FOR his quick wit and jokes, Mr. Rawabdeh almost got himself in a fight on another front. As he was leaving a meeting in Irbid, he met a former minister of health who is also a powerful Irbid candidate. True to form, Mr. Rawab-

deh cracked a one-liner. "Here comes the midwife," he said. Naturally the relatives of the former minister, who is a gynecologist by profession, got upset. Had it not been for the intervention of some third party well wishers there would have definitely been a fight, the story goes.

"WE ARE not for sale" read a leaflet signed by the residents of the Azmi Al Mufti refugee camp on the outskirts of Irbid, attacking some candidates for

their attempts to buy votes.

ANOTHER CANDIDATE running for elections in Irbid promises his voters a step-by-step return to Islamic life. On the foreign policy level, Sheikh Nasser Tahat said in a newspaper ad yesterday that he will accept "comprehensive and just peace which will bring back our land, and our Holy Places, with Jerusalem as its capital." Does it sound like he is endorsing the Gaza-

Jericho agreement? Apparently he is not, as he further adds: "We will accept an independent Palestinian state armed with state-of-the-art weaponry, starting with rifles and ending with cross-Atlantic missiles. Besides, I want to dismantle all the settlements and bring back all the refugees to the lands they left before 1948 and share authority with the Jews on equal footing." Peace mongering or merely language obfuscation? Irbid

Elections '93

voters do not simply know.

A REPORT on the election situation in Karak which was published in one of the local Arabic dailies can only be called a joke. The writer says that votes in the district of Karak cannot be bought because there is "a state of awareness which the citizens of this district en-

joy." The writer then continues: "To prove this, and to show their commitment to their chosen candidates, most of the Karakis will vote publicly (calling the name out loud)." This is exactly the condition which candidates who "buy" votes place on the voters to ensure that their money is well earned.

Suhair Obeidat

Settlers

(Continued from page 1)

a statement said. About 24 settlers read the Torah in tents set up on the farm where Mizrahi was found dead and vowed to establish a new settlement there.

"The army has tied our hands until now saying they will protect us. But they can't. We have weapons. We won't accept this accord quietly," said Zeen Libeskend, a settler leader.

The initial settler protests to the peace treaty fizzled out after they failed to attract much interest among most Israelis, who generally support the peace plan, but the killing galvanised them again.

Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi

Peres

(Continued from page 1)

buy shares. Shlomo Ben-Ami, who heads the new project by Kofr, said Western states could not be counted on to meet the region's economic needs while so many other countries sought their aid.

"The Middle East will not be saved by foreign governments," Mr. Ben-Ami told the conference. "Local business, seeking profit, has to be the basis, in a setting of regional cooperation."

Some 3,000 businessmen — Palestinians, Israelis and others — attended the conference, where they discussed ways to reap a peace dividend from the new situation in the region.

Hostages rescued

(Continued from page 1)

left home for work on Oct. 24. In Paris the French Foreign ministry thanked the Algerian authorities for rescuing Mr. Thevenot and Mr. Freyssier, adding they were "safe and sound."

"The search for Mrs. Thevenot is still under way. In current circumstances, no further comments will be made," it added.

According to rumours here, Michele Thevenot was separated from the men shortly after their abduction.

While no organisation ever claimed to have kidnapped the three, it was widely suspected to have been the work of Islamic fundamentalists.

Well-informed sources reported that at least seven of the kidnappers were killed in a combined army and police operation.

There were no reports of casualties among the security forces. Other details were not disclosed.

The announcement of the rescue came less than two hours after a statement was released by a group claiming the kidnapping, promising to free the captives Monday.

It was unknown whether the captives were in fact freed from the so-called Islamic Armed Group. The tract promising the release was left overnight in the mailbox of the Associated Press bureau.

It did not report the captives' health or indicate that they might be held separately. Despite the promise to free them, the tract noted that the 1994 revolt began with the slaying of two French colon-

els. The liberation of Mr. Thevenot and Mr. Freyssier capped a week of intensive manoeuvres since the two were abducted Oct. 24 from their home in coastal Algeria. An Algerian police guard died in a shoot-out. A fourth Frenchman

Haram joined in the criticism of the settlers on Sunday, saying there were "dangerous signs of a revolt."

"They want to torpedo the peace process," he added.

The local authorities in Al Bireh, near the Beth El settlement, said six cars were burnt

and 12 other damaged Sunday, and stones were thrown at 20 Palestinian houses in Al Bireh, Ramallah and Bir Zeit.

Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said the settlers were "provoking the government with all the means at their disposal," and the gov-

ernment "will not let them get away with it."

The army sent reinforcements Sunday to the West Bank, where more than 115,000 settlers live.

Israeli Television said the army detained several Palestinians after the abduction.

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<p>IV Thursday 4, Nov. 1993 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>• ART & PRODUCT DISPLAY</p> <p>• 2nd FASHION SHOW by El-Zay - GFT</p> <p>• ITALIAN GOURMET DINNER prepared by Chef Celeste Tonon especially flown in from Venice</p>	<p>VI Saturday 6, Nov. 1993 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>• ART & PRODUCT DISPLAY</p> <p>• OPERA RECITAL by Baritone Mario Boccardo accompanied by Pianist Barbara Cattabiani (arie by Bellini, Martini, Puccini, Rossini and Verdi)</p> <p>• ITALIAN GOURMET DINNER prepared by Chef Celeste Tonon especially flown in from Venice.</p> <p>• 1st FASHION SHOW by Venefir, in a relaxed unconventional atmosphere.</p>	<p>Sponsored by: Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan El-Zay GFT Alitalia co-sponsored by: Abu Shakra Trading Campanile Le Firme Scarpa Shoes - Amman Venefir</p> <p>Acknowledgements: Artist Lorenzo Fonda Salt Handicraft Training Centre</p> <p>Alitalia VENEFIR Le Firme Campanile GFT S.p.A.</p>

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Lebanon faces problems mobilising reconstruction funds

BEIRUT (AFP) — Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri's government is facing a tough problem in securing foreign aid to implement an ambitious 10-year plan to get the country back on its feet.

The Horizon 2000 master-plan revealed in March to rebuild the Lebanese infrastructure, which was shattered in a 15-year civil war, has been estimated to cost some \$12 billion.

"The outside world will not help us unless we help ourselves. All depends on us if we work hard. Our credibility is a function of our work," the head of the Council of Development and Reconstruction, Fadi Shalal, told AFP.

According to Mr. Shalal, Lebanon already has \$1.5 billion in foreign credit and hopes to obtain an additional \$1 billion.

But according to Western diplomats, Lebanon has so far secured only around \$530 million in pledges from the World Bank, European Bank of Investments, Kuwait, France and Italy.

The diplomats believe that foreign aid will only be forthcoming if the Lebanese show faith in their country by returning part, if not all, of the estimated \$40 billion in private assets kept abroad.

Until then, they said, Lebanon will only be able to depend on small loans or grants to cover the implementation of one project at a time.

Mr. Hariri and senior ministers have canvassed the oil-rich Gulf monarchies and Arab capitals in recent months to

appeal for financial help and obtained promises, but the offers remain empty.

They mainly urged the Arabs to activate an Arab and international reconstruction fund that was approved at the 1990 Baghdad Arab summit with an initial capital of \$2 billion. Lebanon has not seen a penny of the sum.

"The Lebanese also know they will be facing competition from Gaza and Jericho," which are being earmarked for international aid as part of plans to set up self-rule there under the Sept. 13 PLO-Israeli accord, a Western diplomat said.

This realisation is shared by many of Mr. Hariri's detractors and the excitement that accompanied the self-made billionaire's appointment as prime minister one year ago appears to have been overtaken by bitterness.

"He has no political vision," according to bank executive Tony Shuairi.

"He promised the moon but he did not deliver," added an economic expert declining to be identified.

Officials meanwhile estimate the budget deficit at \$1 billion while experts believe it is closer to \$1.5 billion.

Opponents of the prime minister accuse him of losing all sense of priorities, pointing to the government's effort to sell the idea of rebuilding the city centre before tackling more urgent problems such as rationed electricity and public health.

Hilton International receives Jericho offer

ABU DHABI (R) — The Hilton hotel chain says it has been asked by Palestinian investors to set up a hotel in Jericho where self-rule begins to take effect later this year.

"We have already been contacted by people who wish to put a hotel in Jericho," Ahmad Al Nahas, a vice president of Hilton International Co., said Sunday. "But we want to see how things develop. It's too premature."

Tourism in the occupied territories is to be transferred to Palestinian control under the Israeli-PLO peace accord signed last September.

Investment in Gaza Strip and Jericho, to have full autonomy by next April 13, is expected to be cautious initially as the transfer of authority takes place.

Mr. Nahas said the company, a hotel management unit of Ladbroke Group PLC in the United Kingdom, was negotiating to expand its hotel capacity by 50 per cent in the Middle East and the Gulf.

"There is a lot of room for business. It's a virgin place," he said.

Mr. Nahas had earlier told a news conference in Abu Dhabi that the Middle East and the Gulf were the fastest growing market for Hilton International, which owns 30 of the 160 hotels under its management in 60 countries.

He said the company is negotiating to set up three hotels in Saudi Arabia, three in Egypt along with two cruise ships, and one hotel each in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Yemen for a total of 4,000 rooms.

He said they now have about 8,000 rooms in 17 hotels in the Middle East — seven in Egypt, six in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and one hotel each in Bahrain, Sudan, Tunisia, and Algeria. In the UAE it is investing \$27 million to expand two hotels.

Russia puts up prices on Lada cars

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's most popular car, the utilitarian Lada, will cost 50 per cent more from Monday because of soaring production prices. ITAR-TASS news agency said Sunday. It said the most popular model would cost 7.8 million roubles, which is the equivalent of about \$6,600 or \$150 average monthly pay packets. The top of the range version will cost 13 million roubles (\$11,000). Value added tax of up to 28 per cent has to be added to all prices. TASS said AvtoVAZ, which is being privatised, had had to increase its prices to keep up with rising component and energy prices.

Businessmen see lucrative computer market in Mideast

DUBAI (R) — International computer companies are finding a lucrative market in the Middle East but software piracy especially in Gulf Arab states is hampering sales and the quality of products, company officials say.

"There are very high expectations for the computer market in the Middle East... it is very far away from market saturation. Computer literacy is growing tremendously," said Ibrahim Lahoud, marketing and communication manager for the Arab Business Machines.

But piracy is "killing us and killing everybody else," added Mr. Lahoud, whose company is distributor for Apple Computer Inc. in the Middle East.

"Piracy is the biggest epidemic that we have in the region. We sell one software and then you find 50 copies in the market," he added.

Arab Gulf states including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates have passed laws to stop the widespread use of illegally copied computer software, video and audio tapes.

Mr. Lahoud was speaking at the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GITEX)

which opened in Dubai Saturday. Over 300 exhibitors representing 1,000 international and regional computer firms are promoting their products at the four-day exhibition.

The computer executives gave different growth rate figures for the business in the Middle East. Some said it was 20 to 30 per cent a year while others said it was 10 to 15 per cent.

All said there were no available statistics on the size of the market. Some estimated the software and hardware market in the Middle East was worth \$1 billion.

Charles Allen, Middle East manager of the U.S. computer software giant Microsoft Corp., said last week he expected the Middle East personal computer software market to expand up to 400 per cent in three years.

He expected to see the whole personal computer software market in the Middle East growing to about \$150-\$200 million in the three years and estimated the market's current value at around \$50 million a year.

Mustafa Rugibani, general manager of the Bahrain-based Gulf Business Machines which

distributes International Business Machines Corp. IBM products in the Middle East, said his estimated growth rate of 10 to 15 per cent was a high rate compared to the rest of the world.

"It is a great rate compared to the United States and Europe. There is no recession here and it is a very good market for computer products both software and hardware," he said.

"That is why there are many competitors," he added. Many of the companies, including Microsoft and IBM, are showing the latest versions of their Arabic-language software at GITEX.

"There is demand for Arabic software which is not fully utilised yet. Many major companies are investing in this because of the high demand for Arabic software," Mr. Rugibani said.

The executives said that they were encouraged by laws passed in some Gulf Arab states to protect copyright.

"With the new laws being issued, the problem of piracy is going to be limited... it is a major problem now but it is getting better," Mr. Rugibani said.

Cuba preparing new tax system

HAVANA (Agencies) — Cuba, engaged in reform at a time of serious economic crisis, is preparing measures to improve the health of state finances, including a new system of taxes, a senior government official said Sunday.

Carlos Lage, a member of the Communist Party Politburo and secretary of the council of ministers, did not give details of what form a new tax system might take or when it would be announced.

However, Mr. Lage, interviewed in the Communist Party newspaper Granma, said the tax system would be "integral and uniform." This suggested a move toward taxes on individuals.

This would be a major change in the communist-ruled Caribbean island, where most ordinary Cubans do not pay income tax. State revenue has up until now come mostly from profits from state-owned enterprises, taxes on state and foreign firms and limited taxes on individuals.

Mr. Lage said state fiscal and budget deficits were running at several billion pesos (several billion dollars) and there was an excess of pesos in circulation which would pass 10 billion by the year end.

To reduce the deficits, finance officials were "working on the creation of an integral and uniform tax system, and one of the use of the state budget as an instrument of regulation and control of the country's economic activities," Mr. Lage added.

Authorities also wanted to develop audit, checking and

accountancy systems to achieve a greater level of measurement of the economy, he said.

Mr. Lage, who is viewed as the architect of Cuba's economic reform, stressed that authorities would be extremely careful not to hit the poorest members of society or erode achievements such as Cuba's health and education systems.

"Improving Cuba's internal finances will not be done through shock therapy, as has been done in many countries," said Mr. Lage, 42.

He said other reforms being considered were measures to streamline the state structure, which would be announced in the next few weeks.

Assessing reforms already undertaken since a landmark speech by President Fidel Castro in July, Mr. Lage gave a sober outlook for prospects of economic improvement, although he said authorities hoped for continued growth in tourism and foreign investment and in Cuba's domestic oil production, as well as an improvement in the farm and sugar sectors.

Mr. Lage said new cooperative farms introduced in September — which will sell an agreed quota of their produce to the state but keep back some for workers' own consumption — could help improve food supplies for more than a quarter of the population of nearly 11 million.

He suggested authorities would continue to expand the possibilities of private self-employment, another measure introduced in September. Professionals, except for doctors or teachers, could end up being allowed to work for themselves, Mr. Lage said, without giving details.

Mr. Lage said foreign investment in Cuba was gathering pace, with some 99 businesses involving foreign capital established, 21 of them in tourism. But he said the process of drawing in foreigners was slowed "by pressure from the United States, campaigns against Cuba and propaganda of insecurity, constant threats and warnings."

Cuba's oil-importing, sugar-exporting economy was plunged into crisis following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of its traditional aid and trade ties. Authorities also blame the longstanding U.S. economic embargo on Cuba for the difficulties.

The country is suffering shortages ranging from fuel, spare parts and raw materials to food and basic consumer goods. Mr. Lage noted that Cuba's buying power abroad this year was just \$1.7 billion, down from \$8.1 billion in 1989, of which \$751 million had been set aside for the import of 5.7 million tonnes of fuel and \$440 million for food imports.

Mr. Lage announced that the communist government was talking with Washington about opening up telephone communications between Cuba and the United States, as well as more channels for Cuban-Americans to send money to their relatives on the Caribbean island.

Arabs to promote local investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Officials and experts from the Arab World and international organisations are to gather Monday in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to promote investment in the region and reverse a steady outflow of capital.

More than 100 participants from the 22-member Arab League, the United Nations, the World Bank and other institutions will identify investment opportunities which have emerged with the introduction of reforms in some regional states.

"The conference is an important opportunity to exchange views about the emerging business chances in the region and to identify feasible projects," said Khalifah Kharbush, investment chief at the UAE finance ministry.

"Boosting domestic investment has become a significant step in bolstering the economy. Several projects covering industry and other sectors will be presented during the conference," he told AFP.

The meeting in Dubai is the latest in a series of Arab attempts to persuade local investors to turn to their own region to support development instead of continuing to amass their funds abroad.

Official figures show public and private Arab investments abroad are estimated at between \$600 billion and \$800 billion, compared with around \$30 billion in the Arab region.

Most of the overseas assets are owned by the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and concentrated in the West in stocks, bank deposits and real estate.

According to GCC Secretary General Fahim Ibn Sultan Al Qassbi, Gulf funds in the United States alone have swelled to \$407 billion.

"Certainly with more efforts from both sides, these figures could be improved," Sheikh Fahim told U.S. businessmen in Abu Dhabi Saturday.

Despite reported large losses from overseas investment due to market instability, calls on Arabs to repatriate their funds have so far fallen on deaf ears. Investors argue the Arab market remains closed and too small for those funds, customs barriers in the region persist and guarantees are not enough.

"Improving investment laws is not enough, there should be guarantees for investors, economically and politically," said Yussuf Khalifa, economics professor at the Emirates University. "Arab markets should also open up to each other in order to absorb funds."

Several Arab countries have passed laws to attract local and foreign investment as part of reforms to deal their economies which have been stifled by decades of state control and political instability.

But several of them are still rocked by unrest.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY NOVEMBER 1, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Although conditions and situations from the past can have delays connected with them, you are under unusually good aspects for being very forward-looking where all kinds of modern up to date interests are concerned.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find it possible to wind up some long time obligations by the sticktoativeness you now express, then look into new ways to operate without action.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You need to use diplomacy in your relations with a scheming associate after which be sure you scrupulously carry through with promises you've made.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Work seems to be a big pain in the neck as the week opens but remain steadfast at duties while later listen to but don't follow an outside partner yet.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is the day to make sure you do what will take away any friction from loved ones attitude, then make sure you follow tasks as schedule.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Take some time out to ease any tension existing at your own home before you seek to iron out some problems which concern your recreational interest.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the day to be most particular to answer exact queries made that applies to your daily

activities while later the same applies to your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have a money matter that causes trouble later unless settled early today after which you can get into acquiring data for handling reports.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Control that early morning feeling you have to have your own way at all costs and later sidestep a plan that could cost you a considerable amount or money.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Being balked at some intimate aim should be downplayed for it comes to you later while in the evening your own dreams seem impossible to obtain.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't try to get an obstinate acquaintance to see things your way just yet and later you can work out a plan to get out from under a snarl.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is not the day to approach anyone in authority or influence for any favour but instead do your vocational activities well and later be wary of angry friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't rely upon the hunch that is so insistent this morning and use your best judgment while later outside matters seem difficult to arrange as you wish.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"As good citizens, we should recycle these bills and not waste more paper writing a bunch of checks!"

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



BIRTHSTONES FOR NOVEMBER
TOPAZ - TIGER EYE
Available loose or in gold at
DALAM
Jewellers

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bromfield

ACROSS	1 Cleaning items	10 Japanese port	19 Insignia	28 Coordinated costume	36 Lion or horse start	44 Mecca pilgrimage var.	51 Nilsen or Juggans	59 Curly one	67 Head	70 Deficiency	71 Stay in office	72 Curl the lip	73 Linguistic units
DOWN	1 Health worker	2 Japanese city	3 Discussion group	4 Draw	5 Bracted ones	6 Pluffy twigs	7 Twists arms	8 The Egg	9 Deserving	10 Dressing gown	11 Auditory	12 - and call	13 Epochs
	14 Coup d'etat	15 Many a soul	16 Roman road	17 Actor Andrews	18 Buffed leather	19 Insignia	20 Castle	21 Te-lips	22 Dead-end street	23 Dearest	24 Dramatically	25 Wooden pin	26 Coordinated costume
	27 Spokes	28 Coordinated costume	29 Lion or horse start	30 MacGraw of moves	31 Chief officer	32 Stalemate	33 Turkish tile	34 Fireplace shelf	35 Plains	36 Lion or horse start	37 Nilsen or Juggans	38 Curly one	39 From Here
	40 Mecca pilgrimage var.	41 Cathedral city in France	42 Cruising	43 Head	44 Mecca	45 Cathedral city in France	46 Cruising	47 Head	48 Mecca	49 Cathedral city in France	50 Cruising	51 Head	52 Mecca
	53 Cathedral city in France	54 Cruising	55 Head	56 Mecca	57 Cathedral city in France	58 Cruising	59 Head	60 Mecca	61 Cathedral city in France	62 Cruising	63 Head	64 Mecca	65 Cathedral city in France
	66 Cruising	67 Head	68 Mecca	69 Cathedral city in France	70 Cruising	71 Head	72 Mecca	73 Cathedral city in France	74 Cruising	75 Head	76 Mecca	77 Cathedral city in France	78 Cruising
	79 Head	80 Mecca	81 Cathedral city in France	82 Cruising	83 Head	84 Mecca	85 Cathedral city in France	86 Cruising	87 Head	88 Mecca	89 Cathedral city in France	90 Cruising	91 Head
	92 Mecca	93 Cathedral city in France	94 Cruising	95 Head	96 Mecca	97 Cathedral city in France	98 Cruising	99 Head	100 Mecca	101 Cathedral city in France	102 Cruising	103 Head	104 Mecca

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

101 Thwart	102 Cultivates	103 Structural item	104 Delinquent	105 Americana
106 Thwart	107 Cultivates	108 Structural item	109 Delinquent	110 Americana
111 Thwart	112 Cultivates	113 Structural item	114 Delinquent	115 Americana
116 Thwart	117 Cultivates	118 Structural item	119 Delinquent	120 Americana
121 Thwart	122 Cultivates	123 Structural item	124 Delinquent	125 Americana

Jordan Times'

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Shevardnadze goes to front to 'finish with' Gamsakhurdia

ABASHA, Georgia (AFP) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has arrived here to take personal command of his troops and visit the battlefield after they lost two key western towns to rebels.

Mr. Shevardnadze, planning to see the troops Sunday, said overnight that it was absolutely necessary to "finish once and for all with" former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Georgian forces abandoned the towns of Khobi and Senaki after a counter-offensive by Gamsakhurdia loyalists, reportedly helped by the arrival of reinforcements from the north Caucasus, who also helped Abkhazian separatists expel Georgian government troops.

"Our men are tired. After a year of Abkhazia, defeat and now this war against other Georgians... It is normal that they should be weary. But I believe at the same time that they understand that it is absolutely necessary for Georgia to finish with this once and for

all," Mr. Shevardnadze said. Shevardnadze has set up his headquarters in Abasha, the last town before the battlefield, which is now at the outskirts of Senaki.

He held lengthy talks Saturday with his military chiefs of staff and was due to visit the front Sunday to boost the morale of the Georgian government troops.

In an interview with AFP, Mr. Shevardnadze said the intervention of fighters from the north Caucasus "changes everything, and that is why I have come. They have sent several hundred soldiers from Abkhazia with weapons and heavy equipment, and it is against them that we are fighting now."

The Georgian chief added: "If it had remained a local conflict and we were only fighting the Gamsakhurdia forces, we would be able to finish with these criminals. But outside intervention makes everything different."

According to a confidential document shown to AFP by a Shevardnadze aide, the leaders of the "Federation of the Peoples of the North Caucasus" had decided to help the ousted Gamsakhurdia to maintain their own influence in western Georgia.

"If Shevardnadze wins, we shall have no more access to the sea (the Black Sea). We must therefore help Gamsakhurdia, who is our ally," the document stated.

It was impossible here to authenticate the document, which dealt with a meeting of federation leaders last Wednesday and Thursday in Grozny, capital of Chechnya, where Mr. Gamsakhurdia spent his exile.

The document spoke of sending between 700 and 900 men into western Georgia in the ensuing few days.

Mr. Shevardnadze said his troops had no outside help. The Russian army was guarding the railway lines from the

Black Sea to eastern Georgia, but "are taking absolutely no part in the fighting," he said.

Russian sources said late Saturday that their troops stationed at the railway at the entrance to Senaki had come under Zviadist fire, but it was unclear if they were specifically targeted or had been caught up in the Grad missile barrage against government troops nearby.

Military officers were officially talking optimistically about taking Zugdidi in coming days, but there was also clear concern at staff headquarters about the extreme tiredness of the troops.

Many are volunteers who could at any moment simply clear out and go home.

A general of the regular army confided: "We are positioned here outside Senaki on a plain without any protection, and they showered Grad missiles on us all day Saturday. If we do not move forward soon, I am afraid my soldiers will not hold out much longer."



Georgian government soldiers run for cover during fighting near the town of Senaki, in the western part of the country (AFP photo)

Director Frederico Fellini dies

ROME (R) — Film director Frederico Fellini, an icon of the international cinema whose 1960 classic *La Dolce Vita* defined an era in his native Italy, died Sunday after two weeks in a coma, his doctor said.

The 73-year-old Fellini died at Rome's Umberto I Hospital at "around noon" (1100 GMT), his personal physician Gianfranco Turchetti told Reuters by telephone.

Maurizio Bui, head of the intensive care unit at the hospital, said Fellini had died of cardiac arrest.

Fellini's condition had worsened earlier Sunday. His doctors said he had developed a high fever and kidney problems.

Fellini, a five-time Oscar winner whose career was synonymous with the flowering of Italy's post-war cinema history, went into a deep coma after he suffered heart failure during his convalescence from a stroke in August.

All hopes for a miracle recovery were dashed when his brain stopped functioning on Oct. 28 and infection set in. Tributes had been pouring in for weeks.

La Dolce Vita, with its enduring image of a woman actress Anita Ekberg frolicking fully clothed in Rome's Trevi Fountain, came after he had already won international acclaim and sealed his reputation.

His portrayal of a decadent jet-set idling their lives away around the Via Veneto created a stereotype abroad of Italy in the late 1950s as a stylish and carefree country and founded the legend of the paparazzo photographer.

Handsome male star Marcello Mastroianni went on to become one of the world's best-known actors despite his failure ever to master English.

"My destiny as an actor changed radically because of him," Mastroianni said in October.

"I became international — well-known in the world — and I recognise this," he added, "but his friendship was even more important to me: He has been like a big brother to me."

German director Wim Wenders was another to offer tribute during Fellini's last days. "He is one of the greats of world cinema," he said. "A part of my childhood is called Fellini — it is that part of childhood which every adult keeps in his heart."

Fellow Italian director Franco Zeffirelli added: "Italy just does not produce giants like Fellini any more."

Fellini was born in the Adriatic coastal resort of Rimini on Jan. 20, 1920 and made his name with "I Vitelloni" (The Loafers), a 1953 study of a group of amiable layabouts.

Mediator pull-out deals blow to Kashmir talks

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — The withdrawal of Muslim mediators appeared Sunday to have dealt a fresh blow to talks on ending an army siege at Kashmir's holiest mosque.

The involvement since Thursday of the three mediators, leaders of Kashmir's umbrella all-party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference, had raised hopes that the tense 16-day standoff at Srinagar's Hazratbal Shrine was heading to a swift close.

But on Saturday night they said they were pulling out of the talks, accusing the Indian government of insincerity.

"The government is not serious about finding a solution to the crisis," Hurriyat spokesman Abdul Ghani told reporters.

"The government was not prepared to offer us any concessions. We had to be imaginative as well as pragmatic — the government refused to be either."

Hopes had run high earlier Saturday that the mediators might find a formula to end the siege at the shrine, where up to 50 armed militants and scores of civilians have been surrounded by troops since mid-night on Oct. 15.

The Indian government, battling a four-year-old Muslim uprising in the mountains of the northern state, said it was forced to surround the shrine to foil an alleged plot by militants to steal the Hazratbal relic.

The operation has dragged into a protracted siege, providing an extra focus for anti-Indian protest in Kashmir, the only Muslim majority state in the mainly Hindu country. At least 47 people were killed on Oct. 22 in clashes between demonstrators and security forces.

Burundi leaderless as tribal death toll mounts

KIGALI, Rwanda (R) — Tribal violence swept Burundi as members of a civilian government who survived a collapsed military coup refused Sunday to leave the shelter of the French embassy.

Pleas from high officials, including Salim Ahmad Salim, secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity, failed to convince the civilian rulers to leave the embassy, where they fled 10 days ago when soldiers killed President Melchior Ndadaye and six other ministers, diplomats said.

The diplomats, reached by telephone from neighbouring Rwanda, said Prime Minister Sylvie Kinigi had told Mr. Salim they feared they would be killed like Mr. Ndadaye, who was shot a few hours after the Oct. 21 coup.

Communications Minister Jean Marie Ngehayo, the spokesman for the group, said,

A senior official in New Delhi said the separatists toughened their stand after local newspapers quoted off-the-record remarks by a U.S. State Department official saying Kashmir was a disputed area.

The official said the U.S. remarks boosted the militants' morale.

India has reasserted its rights over Kashmir amid outrage over the United States questioning the validity of the state's 1947 accession in a perceived policy shift.

"We do not recognise anyone's right to question the status of Kashmir as an integral part of India," Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh said late Saturday as all political parties denounced Washington in a rare show of unanimity.

"India will not brook any outside interference from any quarter on Kashmir," Mr. Dinesh Singh said in a statement. "Kashmir is, and shall remain an integral part of India."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the whole of Kashmir, held in part by India and Pakistan, was a disputed territory whose status needed to be resolved.

Mr. Dinesh Singh noted the United States had expressed its view at a time when India was struggling to end a prolonged standoff at the Hazratbal Shrine.

"We are surprised at the timing of the American pronouncements — they came just as it appeared the armed terrorists inside the shrine were about to release the civilian hostages held by them," the foreign minister said, adding "these signals could encourage continued confrontation."

France attacks U.S., Japanese cinema 'monopoly'

BEAUNE, France (AFP) — French Culture Minister Jacques Toubon has accused the United States and Japan of fostering a cinematographic monopoly and pledged to wage a cultural war to safeguard the French film industry. Speaking at a cinema forum in this eastern central French town Saturday, Mr. Toubon said that a "battle" had been declared in the name of multi-culturalism and against the "Japanese-American monopoly" in the audiovisual and cinema sectors. His comments were the latest in a series of declarations of solidarity by French public figures in the face of what are seen as threats to the future country's movie industry posed by a culture class in the ongoing GATT talks aimed at liberalising world trade. Stressing his support for excluding culture from the GATT provisions, Mr. Toubon said: "We are fighting for openness... for the freedom of creative people and audiences. We are not seeking protection. We want to keep a window open to allow various perspectives on the world." Europe needed to set up its own major film companies with EC backing, he added. The minister stressed that, without support from France, cinematographers such as M. S. Suleymanoglu, Argentina's Fernando Solanas, and Bosnia's Emir Kusturica would have been unable to produce their films. He added: "Our battle is not only on behalf of cultural identity but also universalism. Are we prepared to admit there is only a single world of culture?"

Man pleads guilty to strangling puppy

GARDNER, Massachusetts (AFP) — A man who allegedly strangled a poodle puppy to death after it defecated on his rug received a one-year suspended jail term. Todd Burwell, 29, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of cruelty to an animal in the 1988 incident. He was also ordered to perform 100 hours of community service. The puppy belonged to Burwell's landlord.

Judge calls for anonymity for men on rape trial

BRIGHTON, England (AFP) — Britain's top judge has called for the names of men on trial for rape to be kept secret after a controversial case in which a student was acquitted but faced a barrage of publicity in the press. Lord Chief Justice Taylor made the plea at a law society conference in Brighton after the acquittal earlier this month of Austen Donnellan, who was found not guilty of raping a fellow student after a drunken party. Mr. Donnellan faced widespread press coverage during the trial while his accuser was not allowed to be named in the press. He complained after his acquittal that the law allowed the name of innocent men to be dragged through the mud in the press. "I think it is unfair he should be exposed to the same sort of embarrassment women were exposed to that led to anonymity being given to the complainant," Taylor said. But another top judge, Master of the Rolls Sir Thomas Bingham, said he would be unhappy with a situation where there was a "creeping veil of anonymity over court proceedings." Home Secretary Michael Howard has ordered a review of the laws on naming rape victims and the judge is considering anonymity for both complainant and the man being prosecuted.

Children fingerprinted after classroom heist

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese school board has rebuked a teacher who fingerprinted a class of 10-year-olds after someone stole money from her desk. The 28-year-old teacher took the fingerprints of about 30 pupils in hopes of finding out who took a bag with tens of thousands of yen (hundreds of dollars) collected for the local Parent Teacher Association, the Mainichi Daily News said. The bag was found a few days later by a child from another class, the report said. Several thousand yen were missing. When parents complained to the school, in Tochigi Prefecture north of Tokyo, the teacher apologised, saying the theft was due to her negligence. Mainichi said the local school board told her that fingerprinting children was going too far.

Haiti rightists plan to replace Aristide

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's pro-army rightist political parties, after blocking the return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, planned Sunday to seize state power.

Fired up having successfully defied the United Nations, political hardliners said they would make their move Sunday afternoon, calling for new elections and naming a new interim president to end all hopes of Mr. Aristide's return.

They say the authority of Mr. Aristide and his interim prime minister, Robert Malval, ended midnight Saturday, the deadline for Mr. Aristide's homecoming under the terms of a U.N.-brokered agreement signed by the exiled leader and army chief Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras on July 3.

"As of midnight, we will occupy all the streets of Haiti. If we say go, everybody will go. If we say stop, everybody will stop. We are going to impose ourselves," Reynold Georges said late Saturday.

Mr. Georges, leader of the Liberal Alliance for the Advancement of Haiti, said: "We will have a new government very soon."

Heavy gunfire was heard much of Saturday night, especially in downtown areas around the empty National Palace.

Civilian gunmen linked to the police and known as "attachés" circled the city centre in pickup trucks, firing off their powerful automatic weapons. It was not clear if they were shooting at specific targets or into the air.

The show of force followed a second day of noisy street demonstrations by hundreds of attaches celebrating the failure of the U.N. plan to restore Mr. Aristide by Oct. 30. Uniformed soldiers and police joined the celebrations.

Mr. Georges said Mr. Malval and the U.N.'s special envoy in Haiti, Dante Caputo, would be best advised not to resist the right-wingers' power grab. "We have to use all force necessary to implement our plan," he told Reuters. Both Mr. Malval and Mr. Caputo have stepped up security measures.

More than a score of small right-wing groups, many of whom revere the memory of the late dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, are behind the plan to replace Mr. Aristide.

They call for invoking an article of the constitution that calls for the head of the Supreme Court to take over as interim president if the post becomes vacant.

The current Supreme Court chief justice is Emile Jonassaint, who was appointed shortly after the military coup that toppled Mr. Aristide from power and killed hundreds of people on Sept. 30, 1991.

Mr. Aristide, a 40-year-old former Roman Catholic priest, had been in office for less than eight months. He is Haiti's first ever democratically-elected leader.

It is not clear whether top military officers will back the neo-Duvalierists' attempt to seize power.

Protestants kill 7 in N. Ireland bar

GREYSTEEL, Northern Ireland (R) — Protestant gunmen shouting "trick or treat" walked into a Northern Ireland bar and killed at least seven people in a Halloween party massacre to avenge an IRA bombing that killed 10 people.

Eleven people were injured, several seriously, late Saturday when two gunmen wearing baseball caps and masks walked into the packed Rising Sun Pub in Greysteel, 80 miles (120 km) northwest of Belfast, carrying submachine guns.

Witnesses said they approached a frightened teenage girl and made the traditional "trick or treat" greeting that children worldwide use to get sweets from their neighbours.

"I don't think that's funny," the girl replied. One of the gunmen then shot her dead, the witnesses said.

They sprayed the bar with fire. One of the pair emptied his magazine, reloaded and fired a second burst, witnesses said.

The Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), an outlawed Protestant extremist group, claimed responsibility for the attack, which cast a shadow over new efforts to bring peace to the province.

Catholic youths went on the rampage in Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second city, in the early hours of Sunday and had to be dispersed by the police and the army.

First signs of victory seen in California fires

LOS ANGELES (R) — Authorities prepared to send fire crews home Sunday, a sign of victory in the battle against southern California firestorms that caused at least \$500 million worth of damage.

"It's time for them to go home," said Los Angeles County Fire Chief Ray Blackburn. "They have our heartfelt thanks."

Cooler weather and lack of winds helped an army of 9,000 firefighters tame the fierce blazes that flamed for four days and nights, destroying more than 700 homes and scorching about 190,000 acres (76,890 hectares).

"As people turned their clocks back one hour to standard time, firefighters were savoring at least partial victory over the 15 wildfires that had cut a swath of destruction and disaster along the coast."

Four were pronounced completely extinguished and the others were between 50 and 90

The UFF said in a statement that the attack was staged to avenge a bombing last Saturday by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland that killed nine Protestants.

The bomb, which went off prematurely, also killed a Catholic who had planted the bomb in a Belfast fish shop.

"This is the continuation of our threat against the (Irish) nationalist electorate that they would pay a heavy price for last Saturday's slaughter of nine Protestants," the UFF message said.

The shooting brought the death toll in sectarian killing since Saturday's IRA Belfast bombing to 23. Six Catholics were killed by Protestant death squads in the past week.

The seaside village of Greysteel is eight miles (13 km) from Londonderry, the site of some of the original disturbances in 1969 that touched off a cycle of violence in Northern Ireland, a British province, that has since killed more than 3,000 people.

A horrified Reverend Ian Paisley, leader of the heavily Protestant Democratic Unionist Party that wants to maintain the link with Britain, said the killings were inexcusable.

Rev. Paisley said the killers had learned their trade from the Irish Republican Army (IRA), the guerrillas trying to oust Britain from the province. Irish Foreign Minister Dick

Spring said: "The depths of sectarian hatred which are being plumbed at the moment can serve no purpose."

William Ross, the Ulster Unionist member of the British parliament in whose constituency the killing occurred, said it was time for the British government to consider a return to internment — detaining suspects without trial.

But Joe Hendron of the moderate Nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) said such a move would be counterproductive. "They'd be queuing up to join the paramilitary organisations," he said.

Residents of Greysteel said the pub was packed with Halloween revellers, including both Catholics and Protestants. At least two of the dead were Protestants.

The dead included an 82-year-old man, a 52-year-old woman and the 19-year-old taunted by the "trick or treat" offer.

Local priest Father Kevin McKenna told reporters the scene in the pub after the attack was one of "total carnage". A dazed man stood over his dead wife. Injured people lay strewn around the bar crying for help, he said.

The UFF said the shooting was aimed at derailing attempts by the Irish government "to meddle in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland."

Actor River Phoenix dies at 23

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor River Phoenix, who emerged as a young star in *Stand By Me* and co-starred in the offbeat *My Own Private Idaho*, died Sunday after collapsing outside a nightclub. He was 23.

Companions of the actor said he was acting strangely after leaving the popular Viper Club in West Hollywood at about 1 a.m. (0500 GMT), said Sheriff's Deputy Patrick Hauser.

Phoenix was taken to Cedars Sinai Medical Centre, where he died at 1:51 a.m. (0551 GMT), Mr. Hauser said. Authorities refused to elaborate on Phoenix's behaviour before his collapse, saying an autopsy would determine a cause of death.

Few celebrations as bloodied Maastricht Treaty takes effect

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC) treaty on European unity, up to now a source of bitterness and discord, takes effect Monday with leaders vowing they have learned the lessons of a bruising two-year battle to get it ratified.

From Nov. 1, the Community will be part of a broader European union made up of the same 12 members but with the ambitious new goals of creating a single currency by the end of the century and forging common foreign and security policies.

The treaty established "European citizenship", which in practice will mean that EC citizens can vote in local and European anywhere in the bloc and can turn to any EC embassy for help abroad.

But the wave of euphoria which carried the Community along to the treaty's signing in the Dutch city of Maastricht 21

months ago has long since faded.

Economic boom has given way to recession. The much-vaunted EC single market has so far made little initial impact on individuals. Only the hangover remains from the giddy excitement of communism's collapse and of Germany's subsequent unification.

Many feel that the cost in high interest rates of absorbing what used to be East Germany has crippled the drive for monetary union before it is got under way, with the EC's currency rate grid battered out of shape by unforgiving financial markets.

The treaty has become a scapegoat for popular disaffection throughout the Community, barely surviving initial rejection by Denmark's voters, narrow squeaks in Britain's parliament and in a French referendum and a tense court challenge in Germany.

So celebrations are heavily muted.

Much of Europe, including the EC's own institutions, will be on holiday Monday, but that is to mark All Saints Day and All Souls Day which follows Tuesday. The timing prompted one critic, France's ultra-rightist Jean-Marie Le Pen, to remark:

"Nothing could better illustrate this stillborn treaty than its coming into effect on the eve of the day of the dead."

The mood at Friday's summit was certainly far from euphoric, as leaders promised to correct past mistakes and struck a note of cautious optimism about the prospects for the future.

The ratification fight had revealed weaknesses, the leaders said, in a declaration that was almost contrite.

"There are many to whom Europe seemed distant, anonymous and interfering. For that reason, we wish to introduce

greater transparency, openness and decentralisation in our procedures. We want a Europe close to the citizen and intervening only where necessary to pursue our common interests," they said.

Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, the summit's host and chairman who saw 25,000 of his countrymen in the streets that same day to protest against his austerity plans, was particularly keen to avoid extravagant rhetoric.

"This treaty is not a miracle cure, but it can contribute to bringing about solutions to some of the problems which confront our citizens," he said.

The summit itself made little progress on those problems, but did agree that the future EC Central Bank, the European Monetary Institute, will go to Frankfurt as part of a hard-won package deal on sitting new EC institutions.

Seen as a gesture to reassure sceptical Germans that the

single EC currency will be as solid and stable as the German mark it will replace, the decision was evidence that the EC is clinging to the monetary union goal.

But action to boost economic growth and reduce unemployment — now the main preoccupations — will wait until the next summit in December while the time bomb of the GATT world trade talks was left still ticking in a corner of the community.

The summit's attempt to find new ways to bring aid to the victims of the war in former Yugoslavia served as another reminder of the EC's policy failures there and the struggle it faces to restore its credibility as a force in world affairs.

The new treaty creating the European union, likened by critics to the ugly child of a painful birth, is a complex legal text composed of three main pillars.

The first is the old European

Community, which is overhauled to take on some new responsibilities while giving the European Parliament modest extra powers in some areas of legislation.

Most important, that section of the treaty contains all the provisions for economic and monetary union, with a timetable leading to a single currency no later than 1999.

The section on common foreign and security policy sets out rules for agreeing joint actions of the 12 members. The summit identified the Middle East, former Yugoslavia, South Africa and a stability plan for Europe as the first priority areas.

The third pillar aims to encourage closer cooperation in justice and home affairs, such as the fight against drugs trafficking, terrorism and organised crime and the sensitive issues of asylum and immigration policy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan-Gulf Bank gets new chief

AMMAN (J.T.) — The newly elected board of directors for Jordan-Gulf Bank had appointed Mohammad Jamjoun as the bank's general manager. Mr. Jamjoun, a banking veteran, was the general manager of Jordan Kuwait Bank for the last three years. He acquired his banking skills throughout his (28) years experience in New York, London, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain banks.

Prince Charles to push for arms sales

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Prince Charles will visit an international air show in the Gulf next week to support Britain's arms sales in the region, organisers said Sunday. The heir to the British throne will meet senior government officials in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) when he visits Abu Dhabi before going to the show in neighbouring Dubai, the London-based Fairs and Exhibition said. Britain, one of the top three arms suppliers to the Middle East, is sending 68 companies to the Nov. 7-11 show, which will include nearly 80 types of aircraft and air defence systems. Besides Britain, France, the United States, Russia, China, Ukraine and around 30 other countries will be represented by 450 companies at the show, which will also feature demonstrations.

Israel may no longer define PLO as 'terrorist'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday that in wake of Israel's peace accord with the Palestinians, the government was weighing whether to stop calling the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a "terrorist organisation." Mr. Peres was asked by Israel Radio if the cabinet would discuss changing its definition of the PLO during its weekly meeting. "I know they are working on it, that they are working on the legal aspect of what could be achieved, what legal conclusions can be drawn from the change in the political situation," Mr. Peres said. In January parliament repealed a 1986 amendment that called for prosecuting and imprisoning Israelis that met with members of "terrorist" organisations, mostly directed at the PLO. However, the amendment's repeal did not change the definition of the PLO as a "terrorist" organisation.

Israel to buy F-15A warplanes — report

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel plans to buy at least 20 F-15A warplanes, which have so far only been in service in the U.S. Air Force, Haaretz newspaper said Sunday. Defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben Ami declined to confirm or deny the report that Israel wanted between 20 and 24 of the planes. The U.S. government is expected to state the exact cost of the planes by Tuesday, said Haaretz. Its defence correspondent said Saudi Arabia, which has bought 72 F-15As, would receive a less sophisticated version. The F-15A has a long range, and from Israel it could reach Iraq or Iran. The plane costs around \$52 million.

Archaeologists: Oldest fortress wall found

TEL AVIV (AP) — The world's oldest known fortress wall was uncovered recently in central Israel, an antiquities authority statement said Sunday. The wall, found near the central coastal town of Hadera, dates from the fourth millennium B.C., the statement quoted archaeologist Eli Yonai as saying. The 1.1-metre wall protected villages along a strategic road. The finds, uncovered during excavations to widen the highway connecting Hadera with Afula in the northeast, including a 25-metre stretch of wall and a watchtower. The wall originally surrounded an 800-dunam site. Also uncovered at the site were the skeletons of a young couple and the house of a well-to-do family in which a rare copper axe was found.

3 robbers hanged in public in Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Three people convicted of murder and armed robbery have been hanged in public in northwestern Iran, Kayhan newspaper reported here Sunday. The three were sentenced to death by a revolutionary court in Orumiyyeh after they were found guilty of killing an Iraqi citizen, armed robbery and terrorising the public, the newspaper said. It did not say when the sentence was carried out. The men had appealed to the supreme court against the decision. They belonged to two gangs which were broken up recently. Nine other members of the gangs have been given long prison terms or have been exiled, according to the newspaper. Four convicted robbers were executed in April in Sirjan, southwest Iran. Armed robbery is a crime punishable by death in Iran.

Dubai's television to spread through West

DUBAI (AP) — Emirates Dubai Television (EDTV) will inaugurate a 24-hour satellite service Dec. 6 to become the first Arabic-language station to reach both the European and American continents, officials said Sunday. Riyadh Al Shuaibi, information adviser to the government of Dubai, one of the seven sheikhdoms confederated in the United Arab Emirates, described the plan as "a landmark development in the history of Arab broadcasting." EDTV will use Eutelsat II for its link to Europe, and Galaxy VII to reach Canada, the United States and Central America as far south as Venezuela. He said 14 million Arabs on both sides of the Atlantic will be able to pick up EDTV. "Our service will provide a single bridge between Arab expatriates and their native countries," he said.

'2 colonels led Libya coup bid'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Two army colonels close to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi mounted a coup bid from Oct. 11-14 but it was put down, an Arab newspaper reported Sunday.

The London-based Al Hayat said Colonel Hassan Al Kebir and Col. Rifi Ali Al Sherif staged the revolt counting on "unease in the army" because wages had not been paid for several months.

Quoting unidentified Libyan sources, it said almost 200 people were put down using the air force. Col. Kebir was arrested but Col. Sherif escaped to Geneva.

The revolt was launching in the Bani Walid region, 170 kilometres south of Tripoli, Al Hayat said, and spread to several garrisons but without reaching the capital.

Colonel Qadhafi has denied any military rebellion took place and accused British intelligence of spreading rumours aimed at demoralising the Libyan people.

In Cairo, the opposition National Front for the Salvation of Libya claimed responsibility for the revolt and said the army "went into action" last week against hundreds of rebels still dug in near Bani Walid.

"The attempt was curbed after fierce and bloody confrontations which lasted three days and which led to the killing of between 500 and 2,000 people," Al Hayat said, quoting sources close to the Libyan government.

It said the revolt began in military barracks in Bani Walid and the southern town of Birak, and later spread to Gharyan, south of Tripoli, and Tarhuna to the east.

The newspaper quoted sources as saying the Libyan air force "played a decisive role in crushing the revolt."

They said non-Libyan Arab pilots flew Libya's Russian-made MiG warplanes and bombed barracks where dissidents had gathered.

Security forces led by Col. Khalifa Humeish and revolutionary guard units headed by Col. Muhammad Al Majzoub launched the ground assault using tanks, armoured personnel carriers, rocket launchers and other weapons.

Most of those arrested were officers and Muslim fundamentalists, the sources added. Libya's security apparatus was on maximum alert and most of the troublemakers were sealed off, the sources said.

"The surprise was the involvement of officers from the tribe of Warfala in Bani Walid in the coup d'etat attempt, the tribe considered closest to Qadhafi," the report said.

Al Hayat said Libya's exiled opposition was not involved. "There has been no confirmation that the dissidents had links with a foreign country," the sources said.

Western and Arab diplomats based in Tripoli said they believe Libyan security forces crushed some kind of armed resistance in October near the central city of Misratah. They said there had since been arrests and house searches in Tripoli.

U.N. fails to find 'hidden Scuds'

BAHRAIN (AP) — A U.N. weapons inspection team did not find any hidden Scud missiles or any other prohibited arms during a month-long sweep of Iraq, the team leader said Sunday.

U.S. and other Western intelligence reports have contended Iraq has hidden more than 200 Scud type missiles from U.N. inspectors.

However, team leader Nikita Smidovich, a Russian expert with the U.N. special commission, told reporters Sunday his team of 50 to 100 inspectors found no evidence of hidden missiles during a search he called thorough.

"We found no prohibited items," said Mr. Smidovich, who returned from Iraq in Saturday.

He said the team used helicopter-mounted "ground penetrating radar" to search for possible storage sites for prohibited weapons, primarily missiles.

The airborne sweeps were coupled by searches of Iraqi facilities by teams of weapons inspectors who would arrive at a particular site on short notice to limit the Iraqi ability to hide prohibited items, said Mr. Smidovich.

For the mission, Mr. Smidovich and his team had pooled all the secret information provided to the commission since it began its task by mandate of the Security Council's Gulf war ceasefire resolution early 1991.

"The information available was dealing primarily with missiles," said Mr. Smidovich.

Their search for still hidden chemical and biological weapons supplies also turned out to be negative, he said.

The commission has destroyed three so-called superguns, scores of Scuds and their variants and all the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons facilities and stock that had been declared by Iraq or found by the United Nations during 62 previous inspections.

Of more than 800 long-range Scuds provided by the former Soviet Union, Iraq had fired 43 at Saudi Arabia, 39 at Israel, one at Qatar and two at Bahrain during the Gulf war.

The Scuds had also been widely used by the Iraqis during the so-called "war of the cities" during the latter part of the 1980-88 hostilities with Iran.

However, the U.N. special commission said by its count some missiles are still unaccounted for. It based its

assessment on the number of missiles destroyed over the past three years and on the number Iraq is thought to have acquired from Moscow.

Iraq claims all the missiles have been destroyed. It said the missiles still considered missing by the U.N. were fired in the early years of the war with Iraq or used in test firings.

The inspection teams' failure to find any hidden weapons, could bolster the position of Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq Aziz when he goes to New York next month to push for the lifting of the oil embargo clamped on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

However, even if the Security Council concludes that there are no more weapons hidden in Iraq, Baghdad still must accept a Security Council resolution that puts in place a long-term monitoring plan to ensure it does not revive its programme for weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Smidovich told reporters that Iraq did not interfere with the latest inspections.

"Iraq provided all of the support needed for the inspection activities," said Mr. Smidovich. "We had no problems with gaining access."

44 'Vanguards' sentenced in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — An Egyptian military court jailed 44 Islamic militants Sunday for terms of up to 15 years for plotting against the government a day after it condemned to death eight other members of their group.

The 51 defendants, who were in a cage, and their families burst into Islamic chants and tears as the verdict was read out in the Cairo state security court.

The hearing marked the final session in a mass trial of militants accused of belonging to the Talaah Al Fatah (Van-

guard of the Conquest). In court, the militants swore that President Hosni Mubarak would be assassinated like his predecessor Anwar Al Sadat in 1981, at the hands of Islamic fighters.

"Khaled Al Islambouli killed Sadat with a bullet which pierced his rotten head. That will also be the fate of Mubarak," one of the defendants told AFP through the bars of the cage.

President Mubarak transferred trials of suspected militants to military courts last December, in an effort to secure swift

and harsh sentences. The three alleged leaders in Sunday's group were sentenced to eight, 10 and 15 years' hard labour.

One militant received a term of six years' hard labour, 11 more were given five-year prison terms and 29 others were sentenced to three years in prison. The state security court acquitted another 22.

They were all accused of belonging to the Talaah Al Fatah "with the aim of overthrowing the government and organising themselves to carry out murders and thefts."

State Security Court warns defence team against not attending hearings

AMMAN (J.T.) — The State Security Court, which is trying 10 people on charges of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein, Sunday warned defence lawyers that it would have to proceed without them if they absent themselves from court without any reason.

The court, presided over by

Colonel Hafez Amin, had to adjourn Sunday's session until Tuesday due to the absence of the lawyers for eight of the defendants in court. Two are being tried in absentia.

Despite the court's notification of the lawyers about the date of a court session to the review medical reports, the

lawyers were not present in court, said a court statement.

The court was to have discussed with the lawyers reports submitted by the doctors and psychiatrists about the condition of the defendants in jail upon the request of the defence lawyers themselves, the statement said.

Sudan gets new cabinet with little changes

CAIRO (Agencies) — Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir late Saturday announced the composition of a new government, with few changes from the outgoing team.

General Bashir confirmed the October 20 nominations of Al Zuhair Mahmoud Saleh and Hassan Abdul Rahman as vice-president and defence minister respectively. Gen. Bashir had previously held the defence portfolio himself.

The new administration, which was announced after a 10-day wait, has dropped Finance Minister Abdul Rahim Hamdi and Culture and Information Minister Suleiman Mohammad Suleiman.

Abdullah Hassan Ahmad, outgoing general manager of the Faisal Islamic Bank and chairman of the banks' union, was given the finance portfolio, the only new member of the government.

Mr. Hamdi had been closely associated with tough economic reforms welcomed by the International Monetary Fund but unpopular among Sudanese because they have resulted in huge price rises.

Mr. Ahmad, who replaced Mr. Hamdi, is known as a proponent of market-oriented economics and his appointment means reforms initiated by Mr. Hamdi are likely to continue.

Hussein Suliman Abu Saleh was retained as foreign minister, while Brigadier Suleiman was replaced at the Culture Ministry by former Education Minister Abdul Basset Sabdarat, whose own portfolio was taken up by Ibrahim Ahmad Omar.

The new cabinet replaced the government which stood down on Oct. 17 following the dissolution of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), which had run the country since a 1989 coup against democratically elected rulers.

The outgoing team formally appointed Gen. Bashir president.

Two members of the former RCC, Colonel Bakri Hassan Salih and Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim Shamseddin, were named special advisors to the president.

Karak turns tribal in run-up to elections

(Continued from page 1)

votes; they are strangers to me," said a salesman, who explained that the posters of candidates on his shop windows were put up by some friends but did not mean his own endorsement of any of the candidates—of whom he hardly knows anything.

Political activists admit there has been a setback in political mobilisation over the last four years. Traditionalists and conservatives, who mainly rely on their influence in the government, have taken advantage of this setback by offering to deliver services that opposition party members could not afford.

"People are interested in getting their sons appointed in government and public offices or enrolling their sons and daughters in Jordan's universities and colleges," said one activist.

But such "services" could only be delivered by personalities who have served in many government and even security posts, the activist argued.

"There is little interest in political affairs here. People are more concerned with their daily lives and direct economic needs," said Abdul Hadi Al Majali, the official candidate of the influential Majali tribe, as people continued pouring into his tent in Yarout outside the city of Karak.

Mr. Majali seems to be the perfect example of a deputy for his influence and contacts in government.

He has served in many important posts, including chief of staff and police chief as well as ambassador to Washington. The candidate does not waste time discussing political issues, whether it is the Middle East peace process or domestic policies, with his constituency.

The constituency he appeals to, Mr. Majali explains, fully supports His Majesty King Hussein and all of his policies.

"Jordanian policies are determined by His Majesty, and the tribe is aware of that and supports him," said Sheikh

Sultan Al Majali, the chief of chiefs of the Majalis who added that the tribe did not believe in party activities.

The statement by the sheikh reflects, to varying extent, a conclusion by many in Karak that the Parliament is not capable of changing policies or doing much about them.

Although Mr. Majali is a leader of Al Had conservative party, the sheikh of sheikhs of his clan emphasised that the tribe's selection had nothing to do with the party.

"We are not concerned with the party. We support Abdul Hadi for his personal qualities and his long record in the government. The Majalis need a man in a good position as the tribe deserves," says Sheikh Majali, whose youthful face and energy make him like younger than his fifty-five years.

He added emphatically that the clan does not recognise the other three candidates from the same tribe and that it disavows those who belong to the Muslim Brotherhood. For Sheikh Sultan there is no allegiance or affiliation that supersedes that to the tribe. In practice, however, the tribal elders are forging an alliance with more modern and conservative city politicians.

But if conservative politicians who usually live in Amman find it natural and convenient to fall back on tribal affiliations and structures to assert their influence especially after the system has extended to include more liberal and leftist trends in the decision-making process, the problem is different for the layman who might support conservative candidates.

Candidates and former deputies say that people come to them to ask them to use their connections to find them government jobs.

The people's expectations of such "services" underscore the continuing unemployment problem and poor living standards.

Karak had been the first to join the protests that erupted

against Jordan's economic programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in neighbouring Ma'an in April 1989. It was political activists from Karak who were the first to articulate political demands of the people in the south. That demands were soon endorsed by professional associations across the Kingdom.

Since then, Jordan has taken long strides towards democratisation that involved lifting most security and political constraints on political activities and freedom of expression.

Leftist candidates, like Mr. Mdanat, have a long list of achievements of the former Parliament that they boast of to their constituency. To Mr. Mdanat, who is now in his sixties, it has been a long struggle and the achievements that he cites—such as lifting martial law—has a dramatic impact on him and on thousands of Karaki activists who had spent years in prison and were denied work or travel.

But for many senior citizens in Karak, who were not actively involved in politics in the past, and the younger generation (people in their twenties) who do not relate to the political history of Karak in the pre-democratisation era, achievement could only be felt through tangible improvements in the standards of living.

From this perspective, Parliament could not affect fundamental changes as the government remained committed to the IMF economic adjustment programme and the situation has not changed to the better for the limited income groups which constitute the majority of Jordanians in the south since they are mainly workers and employees in the government sector.

Thus for some voters the choice between a "progressive candidate" who vows to defend the workers' and farmers' rights is not necessarily as attractive as promises by some conservative candidates

to build labour-intensive light industries.

"The setback of organised political parties, particularly leftists, has a lot to do with Parliament's performance," said Mr. Tarawneh, an independent pan-Arabist candidate who is disillusioned with the left, and Parliament.

In his view, the appeal of the opposition parties in Karak has been declining partly due to the "growing resemblance between the government's stands and those of the parties."

"People do not find any real distinction between the two. The parties have been accommodating the government to the point that they have lost their distinctive role as opposition," charged Mr. Tarawneh, who runs his campaign from a modest office, fired with the goal of mobilising people against injustices if he did not win.

Mr. Tarawneh's criticism of leftist parties, however, does not dampen his anger at "violations and interferences against the left."

Back at the strategically located headquarters of Mr. Mdanat, the articulate former deputy, has a more positive attitude as he makes a rundown of the achievements of the four years pointing out that it is long path towards affecting and ensuring the implementation of laws and legislation that lay the foundations of a solid pluralistic system.

Yet Mr. Mdanat and his supporters share the same anger, heard, expressed by other leftist candidates and supporters, against violations committed by the conservatives' campaigns and candidates—whom many suspect are supported by some "influential people" in Amman.

Mr. Mdanat finally decides to send a memo to the executive branch in Amman—for him and others the contest is not just aimed at winning seats but to prevent a setback in the democratisation process as a result of the heated conflict between conservatives, Islamists and leftists in the country.

COLUMN

Queen to visit British army in 'Pied Piper' town

BONN (AFP) — Queen Elizabeth II of England will be in Germany Wednesday and Thursday for a visit of inspection to soldiers of the Royal Engineers stationed in Hameln (Hamelin), the British embassy here announced. She will also meet officials in the Lower Saxony town famed for its legendary Pied Piper. As part of her military inspection, the queen will cross a pontoon bridge slung over the Weser River by the Royal Engineers and visit some of them in their barracks.

China detains author of book on East Europe

BEIJING (R) — China detained the author of a banned book, on Eastern Europe for more than 30 hours, accusing him of sowing "confusion among the masses" with his writings on the collapse of communism, the writer said Sunday. Officials saying they were from the police and publishing authorities picked up Ma Shaohua, 24, Friday, hours before he was due to hold a seminar on the situation in Eastern Europe. Mr. Ma said in a telephone interview from the central city of Xian. They released him late Saturday after he had refused to eat while in custody. "I am going to sue them," Mr. Ma said. "They are afraid of what they think an organised activist that could lead to something like in 1989... They tried to show a very harsh attitude towards me."

He added: "They are afraid I have some purpose in writing what I write." He quoted the official as saying: "You are creating thought confusion among the masses." The subject of the collapse of world socialism is an extremely sensitive one for China's elderly leaders, who are determined not to allow political chaos in the world's last remaining Communist giant. The Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet empire disintegrated only months after Beijing ordered its army to crush pro-democracy demonstrations centred on Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Mr. Ma, whose book Eastern Europe 1989-1993 was banned shortly after it was published in September, was himself held without trial for 18 months after the military crackdown for his role as a member of the standing committee of the Beijing Students Autonomous Federation, which helped organise the demonstrations.

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